

Monday September 9 1996

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The Guardian

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,653

Exclusive extract from his new book

Tony Blair's New Britain



Damon's misery at Monza

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The editors who are favourite for the chop

G2 pages 7/9

Union anger at Labour no-strike plan

Seumas Milne Labour Editor

TENSIONS between the trade unions and the Labour Party spilled over yesterday on the eve of the TUC's pre-election conference, as most union leaders poured scorn on leaked Labour plans to curb public sector strikes and TUC officials sought to paper over divisions around the level of a future minimum wage.

Leaders who regard specifying £4.26 as a tactical mistake were taking heart from the general support for a General Council statement and a supporting GMB general union motion, which they said would take precedence.

That aims to kick the issue into touch as a Tory electoral weapon by deferring an exact figure, while applying pressure on Labour to raise its sights towards something close to £4. Labour sources have been briefing the City to expect a statutory minimum more in the region of £3.50.

Labour has in any case made clear it will leave the entire issue to a Low Pay Commission made up of employers' and union representatives and academics, which would select the rate. But, with continuing strikes throughout the public sector — in Royal Mail, the fire service, benefit offices and on the railways — and the Tories determined to make them an election issue, Mr Blunkett's intervention may be more difficult to handle.

He said last night that he wanted to "set out the framework for a consultation process on how to find a way forward which seeks to resolve disputes rather than exacerbate them," when he comes to Blackpool.

But he said that he would not be proposing any system of compulsory binding arbitration which would take away the right to take industrial action. However, it is understood he will propose that public sector unions could be asked to sign voluntary agreements which would replace the strike option with binding arbitration.

Mr Blunkett added: "I'm saying to the trade union movement — and they are responding positively — 'Let's now look to the future, the kind of relationships, the kind of Labour market that you're dealing with, rather than the factory gate megaphone of 20 years ago. It's gone forever.'"

One union leader, the right-wing Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union general secretary, Ken Jackson, took the lines with anti-statism and declared that strikes should become a thing of the past in the 21st century. Under a Labour government committed to social partnership, they could be replaced by "small fast-track Arbitration Appeal Units" as a better way of settling industrial disputes.

But he was an isolated voice. John Edmonds, GMB general secretary, said binding arbitration schemes for public sector workers was a "boomerang policy for any government," which would effectively be signing away its control of public sector pay.

"Not everybody in the Labour Party leadership understands these things as well as the TUC," Mr Edmonds said yesterday. "In fact, that's true of quite a lot of industrial relations matters, but the arguments against binding arbitration are overwhelming."



VICTOIRE Thivisol, aged four, celebrates her award for best actress at the Venice

Film Festival with French director Jacques Deillon. Victoire, the youngest per-

son to win a major festival award, stars in Deillon's *Ponette* as a girl who refuses

to accept her mother's death in a car accident. Derek Malcolm, page 3

Writer defends revelations in Runcie biography

Victoria Clark

THE author of a forthcoming biography of Robert Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, warned yesterday that the collaboration they entered into five years ago was in danger of descending into an unedifying slanging match.

Humphrey Carpenter, author of *The Reluctant Archbishop*, was responding to reports at the weekend that Lord Runcie had disowned the biography, claiming it contained excerpts from private conversations which should not have been used.

Mr Carpenter said Lord Runcie knew the conversations were being recorded and remained aware enough of the tape machine to ask on at least one occasion for the recording to be interrupted.

"I think I made the very fair assumption that if the interviews were being recorded, they were on the record," he said. He had also gone through the first draft with Lord Runcie and omitted all the things he disliked.

He has also inserted a letter of protest from Lord Runcie as a postscript to the book. "I have done my best to do before this book is published. It now seems possible that I may not succeed. Since you know that I am not enthusiastic about it, you are generous to give me space for a postscript."

The most controversial subjects in the biography are: □ Homosexuality: generally liberal on the issue of gays in the church, Lord Runcie is quoted as saying: "I've always enjoyed their [gays'] friendship but I've always been conscious that they might stab me in the back because I wasn't one of them." He is also quoted as suggesting that gay clergymen can be set right by marrying "the right

sort of girl" and having children.

□ Falklands: the sermon which polished Lord Runcie's image as a fighter against Thatcherism — in which he angered Margaret Thatcher by saying: "People are mourning on both sides of the conflict" — was not even written by him. Lord Runcie regularly called in friends for help with sermon-writing.

□ Royal Marriage: while believing that the Prince and Princess of Wales were badly matched and their marriage "arranged", Lord Runcie enthusiastically described the royal wedding as "the stuff of which fairy tales are made."

□ The Prince of Wales: Lord Runcie reveals that the prince lost interest in the Church of England in 1980 and the Church found his New Age thinking alarming.

The collaboration between author and subject began when Lord Runcie invited Mr Carpenter to write the book. His letter said: "I'm not looking for a biography that has to come out in my lifetime. Maybe it would be better not. Anyway, nothing in the next five years." It is five and a half years since the letter was written.

After 20 years of fighting legal executors for the right to use material left by the dead subjects of his other books and having to grant power of veto in exchange, Mr Carpenter was delighted to deal with a living subject who did not once mention the word veto.

Lord Runcie was in Slovenia yesterday and unavailable for comment. But Mary Louden, author of *Revelations: Clergy Questioned* and a friend of Lord Runcie's, said she believed the problem had arisen because neither party mentioned giving Runcie that power of veto.

"I think it was Humphrey who turned to page 2, column 2

Leader comment, page 8

London's £550m erotic gherkin

James Meikle and Elizabeth Pickering

PLANS for Britain's first 1,000ft plus skyscraper will be unveiled today as London takes a Manhattan-style approach to proving itself a leading world city.

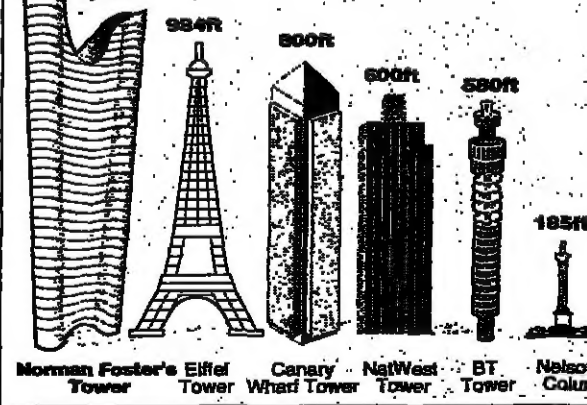
The proposed £550 million, 90-storey building — a third as high again as Canary Wharf — would be Europe's tallest, and will spark a furious debate about just how far architects and City bosses should reach for the sky.

The tower has been designed by Sir Norman Foster. Staff at his offices last night refused to discuss the plans for the site of Baltic Exchange, badly damaged by an IRA bomb attack in 1992 which killed three people and injured 80.

The building, housing up to 10,000 people in hotels, penthouses and offices, would also have "parks in the sky" at 20-storey intervals, restaurants and recreation areas.

Those who claim to have seen the plans give a range of descriptions — sleek, elegant, a mixture of concave and convex sides, or a building with "erotic" gherkin-shaped structures on top.

High and mighty Some of Europe's tallest structures



Its highest point reaches 1,200 feet, slightly smaller than the Empire State Building in New York, still the best known if no longer the biggest skyscraper of all.

Tim Corry, director of the Town and Country Planning Association, warned that there was already a surplus of

3 million square feet of office space in London.

Owen Luder, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, expressed his excitement at the project and his annoyance at those who would object to it. "There were howls of derision when Eiffel wanted to build his tower," he said.

The Prince Charles camp of architectural traditionalists

were bound to oppose it, he said, because "it's not decorated with doric columns."

"People come from around the world to visit tall buildings and go up to the top of them. Tall buildings are attractive on the skyline."

Stuart Murphy, former city architect and planning officer to the City Corporation, had reservations. "The corporation is in a dichotomy. It does not want to lose out to any other capital, but then what ruined Manhattan is that they didn't make any effort to preserve the skyline."

He dismissed concerns about the shadow cast by the tower. "It's clearly a slim tower, so the shadow will be short."

A spokesman for the corporation said: "My understanding is a formal application will be submitted and the planning committee will look at it next month."

Owners of the Baltic Exchange, a grade II listed building, are thought to have been paid about £26 million by insurers after the bombing. Two years ago the Exchange transferred to another building nearby.

Inside

An 11-year-old boy challenging parents' right to smack their children is totally out of control, his mother said yesterday.

Britain

Inter-Kurd fighting continued yesterday with the Iraq-backed KDP making ground amid claims that Iraq is using chemical weapons.

World News

A master-servant approach to British industrial relations is deemed a good thing and Ministers argue that the tough approach works.

Finance

Damon Hill crashed out of the Italian Grand Prix yesterday, leaving Michael Schumacher to win. "I threw it away," said Hill.

Sport

Comment and Letters 8, Obituaries 10, G2, Crossword 16, Weather 16, Radio 16, TV 16

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770261 307316

Advertisement for Charles Wells 4.3% A.B.V. 100% TLC. BOMBARDIER PREMIUM BITTER. Brewed by the Charles Wells Family Brewery, Bedfordshire, Est. 1876.

Sentence: 1,000 years of sodomitical torment

Lesbian Avengers and OutRage declare a 'Queer Fatwa' as the Islamic Rally For Revival struggles to put across its fundamentalist message in Hyde Park



Ian Black

SHEIKH Omar Bakri Muhammad was in full cry about the cancellation of the Islamic Rally for Revival when the Lesbian Avengers and OutRage swept up and issued their own angry response to a fundamentalist agenda.

"Queer Fatwa" the dozen or so gay demonstrators called it, a cheeky mock-Muslim touch designed to inflame a Sunday morning in Hyde Park when the speakers were on opposite sides of a cultural and political chasm policed by a taut blue line.

But decibels ran higher than passions as the pink corner whistled and the green one bawled round the cans and microphone booms recording Sheikh Muhammad — bearded and robed and complaining loudly about Islam

phobia and media hype — explaining why he was with just a few score followers rather than 12,000 or more at the London Arena.

"The British government may be reviewing its policy towards the Islamic Movement," declared the Syrian-born leader of the radical Al-Muhajiroun (The Emigrants) organisation. "But that will be a mistake. If the Muslims start to go underground that will be worse. There is no need for any government to put pressure on us."

"The rally for Islam was an educational and cultural event. It was an intellectual platform. But it has been changed from a rally for revival to a rally for terrorism by the dictatorships of countries that are really terrified of us. In Britain you believe in the freedom of expression. Please practise what you preach."

Behind him, against park railings draped with black flags proclaiming the uniqueness of Allah, some of what Al-Muhajiroun preaches was on public display: bestiality, lesbianism, adultery and fornication were billed as "desolating diseases" alongside appeals to fight anti-Muslim oppression in Algeria, Bosnia, Palestine and Kashmir. One leaflet, confiscated by police, contained assurances that "the victory



OutRage members protest at Speakers' Corner against 'homophobic' Islamic fundamentalism

of the faithful over the Jew is imminent."

Tourists drawn by traditions of English tolerance and good-humoured scotch banter looked puzzled when, across the gravel, Sheikh Muhammad's "sentence" was pronounced: "We believe that the most suitable punishment is not responding by violence."

declared OutRage's Peter Tatchell, "but condemning him to a thousand years of relentless sodomitical torment."

Some serious multicultural exchanges did take place: Stuart Colley, of OutRage, and Al-Muhajiroun supporter Elias Power, a converted Roman Catholic from Slough, talked

briefly about the laws of man and the laws of Allah but they got nowhere fast.

Conspiracy theorists on the Muslim side of the chasm were having a field day about the late cancellation of the rally, announced on Friday afternoon and attributed to the sudden tripping of security costs.

Yet everyone knew that for weeks beforehand there had been furious complaints from Jewish, Hindu and gay organisations as well as from Arab governments fighting violent fundamentalists with exiled supporters living in Britain.

Rally organisers had advertised video or audio messages from Osama Bin Laden, an Afghanistan-based Saudi billion-

aire accused of backing attacks on US troops in his native land; Sheikh Muhammad Fadallah, spiritual leader of the Lebanese Hizbullah, suspected of involvement in hostage-taking, and Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, imprisoned for attempting to blow up the New York World Trade Centre.

Even allowing for the adage that one man's terrorist is another's freedom-fighter, this was provocative stuff harassed Foreign Office officials had gone to ground as the protests flowed in from Cairo, Algeria and Tunis. Last Thursday the Home Office took the unusual step of warning, in a sternly worded public statement, that the rally would be closely monitored and that any incitement to violence or racial hatred would be punished.

In the end it was only the governments — and probably only the short-sighted ones who think that state violence is the solution to radical fundamentalism — that were triumphant. On Saturday the main headline in Egypt's semi-official al-Ahram newspaper read "Terrorist Conference Cancelled" while Friday's edition, still lambasting Britain for allowing its freedoms to be abused, ran a caricature of John Major admitting he was behaving like an ostrich over this issue.

Catherine Moseley, neither Muslim nor militant, was appointed by the cancellation of the original rally; she had been invited to address it to appeal to anyone who could influence the Kashmir militants who have been holding her partner, Paul Wells, and three others, since July 1995.

But for Muhammad al-Mas'ari, the Willesden-based Saudi dissident saved from deportation to Dominica by a public outcry earlier this year, even Speakers' Corner provided a useful platform, and not only to issue a call for the boycott of American goods following last week's bombing of Iraq by what he called the "Zionist-controlled US."

"We talk about the struggle between the two civilisations, western civilisation and Islamic civilisation," he explained. "We believe Islam is a supreme ideology, but we speak it by debating. Seek knowledge, knowledge is power, but don't censor other people's views before you hear them. The sword is not powerful. The word is powerful."

Other rallies for revival would go ahead, in Birmingham, Bradford and Manchester over the coming weeks, and another big event would be scheduled for next year: "God knows," Dr al-Mas'ari grinned. "Next time it may be in Downing Street."

Proms 'advert sales' inquiry

THE BBC is to mount a full investigation into allegations that senior executives sanctioned paid prime-time advertising — in the form of company logos to be shown on screen — during the televising next Saturday of the Last Night of the Proms.

Yesterday the Corporation promised tough action if it was found that a promotional agency it had employed for the last four years was at fault.

The inquiry has been launched following claims by a Sunday newspaper that an undercover journalist was given a price of £30,000 for four to seven minutes of corporate advertising. Any unavoidable shot of a company logo during a BBC programme would be a breach of its charter.

The row centres on the promotional agency, Profile Fursuit Ltd, which has been handling the sale to major companies of hospitality units in Hyde Park, where a 30-acre arena will receive a relayed broadcast on video screen of the Last Night at the Albert Hall. About 25,000 people are expected to picnic on the grass or sit in stands enjoying corporate hospitality.

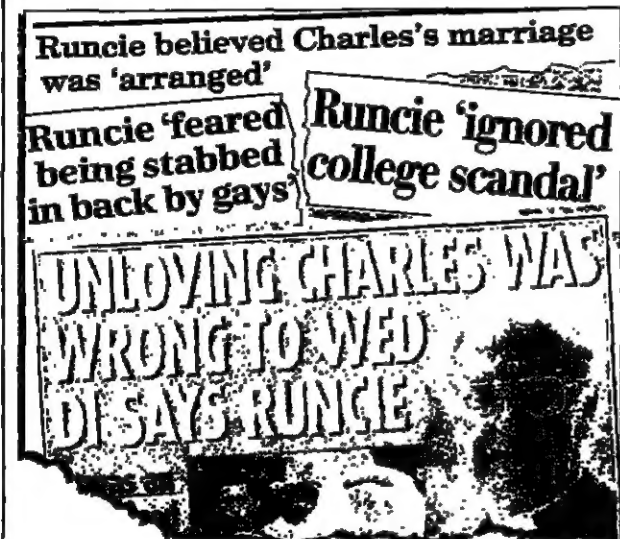
The Sunday Times reported yesterday that its journalist, posing as a sponsorship agent working for a large company, was told that if he bought one of these hospitality units, the company logo would be displayed on screen during televising of the park event on BBC1 and BBC3.

In a taped interview, Lisa Taylor, Profile's managing director, is reported to have said that of the price of £30,000, £15-20,000 was for the hospitality unit, "so what I am really charging is between £10,000 and £15,000 for a totally national logo broadcast at prime-time viewing."

She is said to have claimed that all arrangements had been approved by senior BBC executives.

Yesterday the BBC insisted that Profile had overstepped the mark. "If there proves to be any truth in these allegations, we will take strong action. We will not work with companies who do not take the reputation of the BBC as seriously as we do."

A spokeswoman for BBC Radio, the organisers of the Proms, said the suggestion that company logos would be shown was "absolute nonsense".



Writer defends revelations in Runcie biography

Humphrey Carpenter, right, warned of a slanging match over his biography of Lord Runcie, top left, after media reports

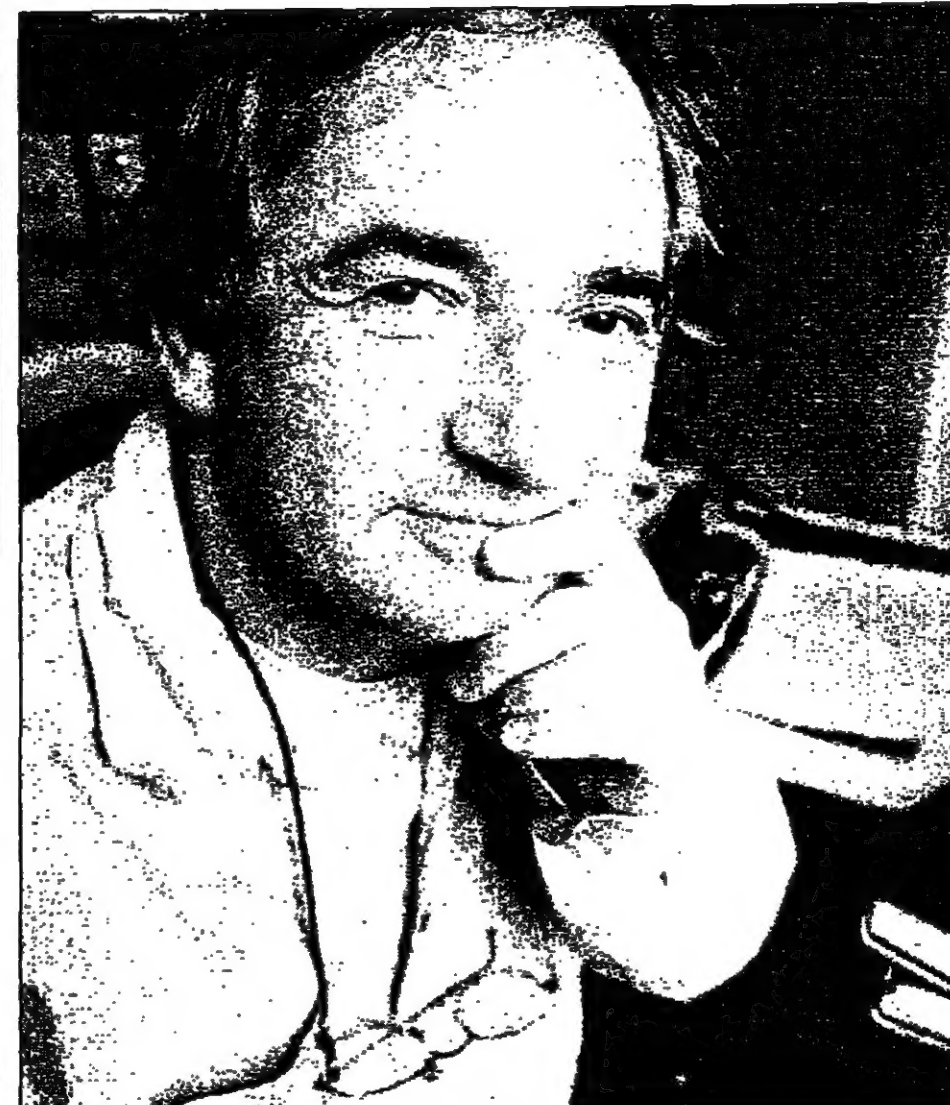
continued from page 1

Carpenter's duty to offer it — out of decency and Robert should, of course, have asked for it," she said. "It's a classic case of misunderstanding and a little bit of opportunism — the whole thing is a bit sad."

Ms Loudon describes Runcie as a "very clubbable person, very easy to talk to." She said: "What I love about him is that he's been prepared to say things that are very self-contradictory. He's not a politically correct person. In many ways he's a conservative but he has a very liberal streak and a quite off-beat radical way of thinking too."

"Just before he went away he said he was going into hiding but he sounded robust and perfectly cheerful."

Mr Carpenter has known Lord Runcie since he was a



teenager, since his father was Bishop of Oxford and Runcie his parish priest and a family friend at Cuddesdon outside Oxford.

Mr Carpenter defends himself against the charge that "The Reluctant Archbishop is insufficiently scholarly and too lightweight by saying that his efforts to delve into the Lambeth Palace archives were disappointing because Lord Runcie worked by telephone and hand-written notes rather than by keeping a daily record."

When the first draft was completed and presented to Lord Runcie, "the blood drained from his face." But they had two marathon sessions sitting around Lord Runcie's dining room table, going through it page by page. "I was interested to see that he left a lot of things untouched. I made all the changes he asked for," says Mr Carpenter.

By Mr Carpenter's reckoning, Lord Runcie is in two minds about the book: "One part of him finds it distasteful and sensationalist but he's an individual who likes being paid attention to — there's an element of the showman in him."

The SBA statement said preliminary results of an investigation suggested the "criminals" responsible had crossed from the Greek Cypriot side into the north, and were technically outside its jurisdiction when they fired the shots. The statement stopped short of suggesting they were Greek Cypriots.

The SBA said later that the investigation had been interrupted for several hours by the discovery of an explosive device near the site of the incident, which "may be connected with the shooting". A bomb expert defused it.

The Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş branded the

Turkish Cypriot soldier killed

Chris Drake in Nicosia

A TURKISH Cypriot soldier was killed and another seriously wounded yesterday after shots were fired next to a section of the British Sovereign Bases Area which separates the feuding communities in Cyprus.

It was immediately feared that it could have been a revenge attack following the killing of two Greek Cypriot demonstrators last month during demonstrations at Dherynia against the Turkish occupation of the island.

The shooting occurred before dawn a few miles from a Turkish guard unit based in the village of Achertouk, which Turks call Guvercinlik.

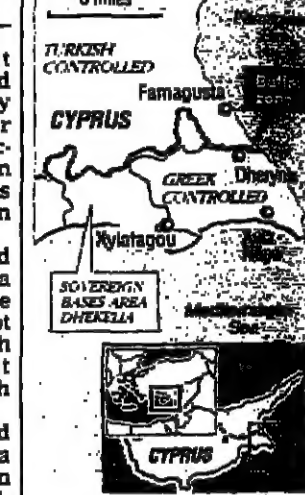
It is not far from a British military listening post where the 9th Signals Regiment is stationed. A road linking the listening post with the British base at Dhekelia runs through a zone 100 yards wide which forms a narrow inter-communal dividing line.

The strip is part of British Sovereign Bases Area (SBA) territory, but does not come under United Nations control like most of the buffer zone, and is patrolled by Greek and Turkish Cypriot police working for the British.

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The Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş branded the



killing "cold-blooded murder", blaming Greek Cypriot political and church leaders for stirring up hatred and inciting violence. He told the local news agency: "The blood of Turks has been drunk once again. Have the church and Greek leadership satisfied their thirst?"

Turkey's foreign minister, Tansu Ciller, said: "We have learnt that there was an infiltration from the English base and this soldier was shot. I am afraid that we have found the guns used are actually similar to the guns used by the Greek [Cypriot] police and the military."

Last night, a government spokesman, Yiannakis Casoulides, said a check of all weapons carried by National Guardsmen in the area showed none had been fired. "This may be part of a planned provocation by the Turkish side to support their contention that the two communities cannot live together," he said.

Efforts by the UN and international diplomats to reduce the tension of the past few weeks have failed. Glafcos Clerides, Cypriot president, and Clerides, refusing to meet Mr Denktaş.

EU summit to expose British isolation on political union

BITAIN'S isolation over plans for closer political union in Europe will be laid bare next month at a special European Union summit to be held just before the Conservative Party conference.

EU foreign ministers meeting in Tralee, Ireland, agreed to step up preparations to produce a draft treaty on closer union by calling a summit of heads of government on October 5.

This is two days before the Conservative Party meets in

Bournemouth, where Eurosceptics plan to re-open their campaign against British participation in the single currency and against any strengthening of the Maastricht treaty.

As he prepares to face a potentially stormy party conference debate, John Major is certain to resist all pressure at the Dublin summit for Britain to show a greater willingness to compromise.

Ireland's government, which holds the EU presidency, is confident it will have a complete new draft European treaty ready by the end of November.

"We are determined to get such a text ready in time for the normal European Union summit to be held in Dublin during December," the Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, said yesterday. "It may be that this text will have to include some very important square brackets where there are deep disagreements, but it should offer serious options for the heads of government to consider."

The British government has so far rejected all attempts to get it to modify its opposition to any extension of majority voting by the EU Council of Ministers, any

extension of the powers of the European Parliament and any weakening of the national veto.

But all the other 14 EU countries believe some reforms in the way decisions are taken are essential.

"I want to see progress made on all the issues we are considering in order to make the European Union more efficient, more open and more democratic," the Commission president, Jacques Santer, said. "I hope we can create conditions for a political breakthrough in Dublin. I would only remind you we have an EU now of 15 member

states which was originally created for only six. Over the years ahead the European Community will enlarge to 25 countries. There must be changes."

In another sign of mounting pressure for faster progress on a new treaty, France's president, Jacques Chirac, is to meet the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, prior to next month's Dublin summit to hammer out a joint plan of action for the Maastricht treaty negotiations.

"We have a long way to go and it is essential that we give the European political union process a substantial new im-

pulse." France's foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, told journalists. "France and Germany will work closely together with other member states to see that we get the progress needed to have a formally agreed treaty under the Dutch presidency next year."

For his part, the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, was remarkably upbeat about the prospects of a compromise on ways of strengthening Europe's common foreign and security policy, and even on the agreement of a common line on defence.

He denied that recent disagreements among EU

governments about United States missile attacks on Iraq showed that consensus was impossible.

"I believe there is a good chance that we can agree on how to move forward on foreign and security policy and defence," Mr Rifkind said. "But we will only get a single foreign policy when national governments share the same view of their interests."

The Government is now ready to agree to a proposal by Finland and Sweden to include Europe's aspirations to play a role in peacekeeping and humanitarian military missions in the Maastricht treaty.

PARK YOURSELF AT THE PROMS.

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER THE LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS COMES TO HYDE PARK ENJOY THE SPECTACLE, AND THE POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE, IN THE OPEN AIR. MARIA EWING, JAMES GALWAY AND THE LABERGE SISTERS PERFORM LIVE ON STAGE WITH THE BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA, FOLLOWED BY A BIG SCREEN SHOWING OF THE LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS LIVE FROM THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL.

HYDE PARK, SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER. GATES OPEN 4.00PM. TICKETS £250. CREDIT CARD HOTLINE 0171 413 3571.

مكتبة التوحيد



Top awards for film depicting rise and fall of IRA hero

Derek Malcolm

THE Irish are coming. Michael Collins, Neil Jordan's film about the IRA hero, has won Venice's Golden Lion for best film after receiving a 10-minute standing ovation at its public screening.

In addition, Liam Neeson who plays Collins — and was rushed from Venice to Parma Hospital to be operated on for a blocked intestine halfway through the festival — was voted best actor by Roman Polanski's jury.

"He's not playing Braveheart and the film's not anti-British," Neil Jordan said. "It's about a man who organised an army and then tried to disperse it — which surely has a lesson for today."

Jordan insisted that the film was as much about the Irish fighting the Irish as the Brits. That seemed to be accepted, which will be a godsend for a nervous Warner's, who are putting out the film in this country but resisting the American idea of a good poster, which has Neeson waving the IRA flag.

The plays, and pretty astounding too, a child who loses her mother in a car crash and cannot accept that she will never see her again, despite everything the father (Xavier Beauvois) can do.

Ponette also won the International Critics Award and that may mean increased interest from buyers at a festival where some were in despair at finding a suitable film for audiences suffocated by Hollywood.

Art was given another fair chance against commerce when the jury awarded Otar Iosseliani, the Georgian director now living in France, the special jury prize for *Brigandage*, an overlong but often brilliant parable about the misuse of authority which naturally enough concentrated its fire on the Stalinist era Iosseliani knew so well.

The jury, which included novelist Paul Auster and actress Anjelica Huston, called this bitter comedy, in which contemporary crimes are mixed with medieval and each makes a parallel comment about the Communist experience, brilliant and ironic. And so it was.

Mexican director Arturo Ripstein, once an assistant for Bunuel and now in his 30th year as a director, was another festival success. His *Deep Crimson*, a sabbat story and also horrifying Latin-American take on Leonard Kastle's *The Honeymoon Killers*, won three Osella d'Orò awards — for screenplay, production design and music.

This weird but rather wonderful film has a fat nurse with halitosis and an ageing girl and travels with her into the conflict between the Sandinistas and the Contras, won the Gold Medal of the President of the Republic for "a film which emphasises civil progress and human solidarity".

Finally, Chris Penn, Sean's less famous brother, won a best supporting actor award for Abel Ferrara's intense but cliché-ridden Mafia movie, *The Funeral*. He plays one of three brothers who seek redemption from crime by killing half his family.



Liam Neeson, above, in the role of Michael Collins, top left, for which he won best actor award in Venice. Director Neil Jordan won the award for best film

The winners



Golden Lion: Michael Collins by Neil Jordan (photo above) (Ireland, US)
Special Jury Grand: *Brigandage* by Otar Iosseliani (France)
Best Actress: Victoire Thivisol for *Ponette* (France)
Best Actor: Liam Neeson (Michael Collins)
Screenplay: Deep Crimson by Arturo Ripstein (Mexico)
Production Design: Deep Crimson
Music: Deep Crimson
Gold Medal of the President of the Italian Senate: Ken Loach's *Carla's Song* (UK)
Best Supporting Actor: Chris Penn for *Abel Ferrara's The Funeral* (US)
International Critics Award: *Ponette* (France)

Hollywood star's on-screen affair put into shade by 75-year-old real-life romance

David Garrick
Ireland Correspondent

EVEN as the life of Michael Collins reaches the screen, another woman with romantic links to the IRA leader has emerged to steal the thunder from the film plot's love interest.

Though the film portrays the smouldering passion between Liam Neeson's Collins and Julia Roberts's Kitty Tiernan, his fiancée at the time of his murder by anti-Treaty forces during the Irish civil war, a new book on the life of Lady Hazel Lavery, London society hostess and wife of the painter Sir John Lavery, suggests an altogether racier tale.

The book examines correspondence between the aristocratic Englishwoman and the working-class Irish rebel detailing their passionate relationship during the London treaty negotiations.



Julia Roberts, left, who plays Kitty Tiernan, and Lady Lavery

warn him: "Be careful, my dear John, our men are not all good shots."

But once a truce was declared and Collins and other Irish leaders arrived in London for negotiations with Lloyd George, he quickly became a regular visitor to the Laverys' home in Cromwell Place. Indeed, the book, published this month, claims that it was a crucial bolt-hole for Collins whose language "was more suited to the docks than the drawing room".

Collins had stumbled into an unconventional marriage. Sir John tolerated his wife's affairs with leading Irish politicians such as Kevin O'Higgins, justice minister in the first Free State government, and Charley Londonderry, later education minister in the Northern Ireland government.



Every morning he and Lady Lavery attended eight o'clock mass together in Brompton Oratory. While still writing devoted letters to Kitty Tiernan in Dublin, it is clear from Collins's letters that he was increasingly drawn to the glamorous socialite who, at 41, was 10 years his senior.

In April 1922, he wrote to her: "I know I shall never again meet anyone so beautiful, so gay, so sad as you."

At times he was moved to write her poetry, declaiming: "I am an eagle and thou art a dove/Bast thou, no fear of me?/Wild is my nest, in the mountain above/Will thou fly there with my wings carry thee?"

Collins gave her a Kerry Blue which she named Mick; it was said he was supposed to frighten away everyone but

the "Big Fellow". Sir John Lavery later claimed that but for his wife's influence, Collins would never have signed the treaty which partitioned Ireland and which he described as his own death warrant.

"Michael Collins stood firm to the last minute," Sir John recalled. "He seemed to have lost his temper. Eventually, after hours of persuasion, Hazel prevailed. She took him to Downing Street in her car that evening and he gave in."

Collins left London to return to Ireland the next day and while the treaty was being debated there Lady Lavery wrote to tell him: "All our thoughts and prayers are with you, Michael. I purchased a most expensive and gigantic candle on Sunday at early mass and burnt it for your victory."

Visiting Collins in Ireland, she was caught up in an assassination attempt in Co Wicklow when bullets smashed through the car window. Collins "took her by the neck and pushed her into the well of the car" according to a diary.

But Collins's luck ran out in his home county of Cork when he was ambushed, a fate foreseen by Lady Lavery, according to her husband. "She had fearful premonitions," she said. "All day I have been seeing them carrying Michael covered in blood. I cannot get rid of the sight."

Hazel: A Life of Lady Lavery by Sinead McCool; Lilliput Press, Dublin

Review



Derek Malcolm
Venice Festival
The Portrait Of A Lady

THERE was only scattered applause and even a few boos after Jane Campion's Henry James adaptation *The Portrait Of A Lady* was given its premiere.

True, everyone was exhausted after a crowded festival programme. Even so, considerable doubts were expressed after this very evenly paced and sometimes quite glacial exposition of Jamesian relationships, made by the New Zealand director whose reputation after *The Piano* rendered expectations unreal. Some, however, found it a masterpiece — curiously among them a number who didn't like *The Piano* all that much. Certainly it is beautiful to look at, perfectly in period, and a new take on James in that it is very much a picture by a woman.

It is also almost uniformly well acted, even though it is less than ideally cast. It is clearly made by a director who knows exactly what she is doing. But some passages badly lack light and shade.

The beautiful young Isabel Archer, assailed by male admirers and then hooked to the evil Gilbert Osmond, is played by Nicole Kidman, whose acting ability must not be questioned even if some might wish for a different actress in the lead. Osmond is John Malkovich, who, though he does his best, inevitably reminds us too much of his role as a manipulating ladykiller in *Dangerous Liaisons*.

These two carry the picture, not ideally but well. And there are first-class performances all round, particularly from Barbara Hershey, a magnificent Madame Merle, the former lover of Osmond; and from Richard E. Grant as the nobly love-lorn Lord Warburton.

The main problem is that the film is so concentrated, observing minute detail, as Martin Scorsese's *The Age Of Innocence* did, as a way of illuminating the emotions boiling underneath them. It is lacking in the bolder brushstrokes Campion provided in *Sweetie*, *Angel At My Table* and *The Piano*. And in the humour.

But then this is Henry James and she has been as faithful to him as possible while pursuing her own concerns. Much of the dialogue seems to be called straight from the book even when it isn't.

Campion seeks to allow Isabel to discover what has happened to her and to free herself. It would be crass to call this merely a feminist interpretation.

Boy, 11, in challenge on beating 'out of control'

Glaire Dyer
Legal Correspondent

THE mother of an 11-year-old boy challenging parents' right to use corporal punishment at the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg claimed yesterday that he was totally out of control.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, claims a beating with a garden cane by his stepfather when he was nine was "inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment", contravening the European Convention on Human Rights.

Today's hearing is the first stage in a challenge which, if ruled admissible, is likely to go to the European Court of Human Rights. A court ruling could limit parents' rights to discipline their children by beating them.

English law allows parents to use corporal punishment, but only to the extent of "reasonable chastisement". The boy's stepfather was prosecuted for assault occasioning actual bodily harm but the jury acquitted him.

The 34-year-old mother of five said: "I have had prob-

lems with him ever since he was two. The other children have been fine.

"Even at the age of two he would climb out of the cot and wreck the house. He would run riot. If he had toys he would break them."

She had lost count of the number of times she had been called to the boy's school because of his disruptive behaviour.

Social services, educational and clinical psychologists had all been involved with him at various times.

On the occasion his stepfather beat him he was trying to stab one of the other children with a kitchen knife, she added.

It was after this that the boy moved out to live with his natural father, who is backing the case. The rest of the children remained with their mother.

None of the youngsters has been smacked since then as they would risk being taken away by social services, she said. This means the children sometimes "try my patience". Supporting parents' right to smack, she added. "I think half of the problems with today's youngsters is they are not properly disciplined."

They know they can get away with things."

The mother is in regular contact with the boy and his father. She questioned their motives in going to Strasbourg.

"Relations were good between all of us until this. I don't know why they are doing this," she added. She would not have the boy back to live with her.

"As much as I love him, there is no way I can have him living with me again. He is too disruptive, there is nothing I can do with him any more."

The Department of Health will argue at Strasbourg that parents have a right to administer reasonable chastisement.

More than 60 British organisations support the abolition of physical punishment, following the example of Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

Britain has banned corporal punishment in state schools, but private schools are still allowed to use it. Research by the Department of Health shows its use is widespread in British homes. Nine out of ten children have experienced it.

Morgan Grenfell compensation scheme 'could cost £100m'

Lisa Buckingham
and Ian King

DEUTSCHE Morgan Grenfell, the scandal-hit investment bank, is planning a multi-million pound compensation programme for investors in the three unit trusts it was forced to suspend last week.

City sources suggest Morgan could face a bill of about £100 million for compensation, and those likely to receive the most generous payments will be investors who bought into the funds earlier this year.

Until now, Morgan Grenfell has told investors only that it will compensate them for losses resulting from "irregularities" and has stuck to the line that its fund managers will meet their "liabilities".

Deutsche Bank, Morgan's German parent, spent about £180 million last week to meet that commitment by buying back shares in unquoted companies which had been purchased by Peter Young, the fund manager at the heart of the crisis.

But the company admitted yesterday that a wide-ranging compensation scheme is now seen as essential to protect Morgan Grenfell's name.

The basis for compensating investors will be agreed with the City watchdog, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, as part of a joint investigation of the affair is concluded, probably within the next six weeks.

Any payment to investors will come on top of what is expected to be a fine in the region of £800,000 from the regulator.

Specialist accountants from Ernst & Young are already trawling through the web of Luxembourg-based companies set up by Mr Young. The EMRO has now asked Deloitte Touche to conduct an independent inquiry.

The aim is to identify to what extent the units were mispriced and how much investors who bought into the funds during the last year should have paid.

The banking group also wants to identify senior executives with responsibility for supervising Mr Young's activities, which breached in-house and City rules.

A spokesman for Morgan Grenfell said it was impossible to predict how much the company would have to pay to compensate investors. But it is estimated that more than 20,000 people bought units in the period during which Mr Young was investing in unquoted securities, and that could suggest a final bill out figure of about £100 million.

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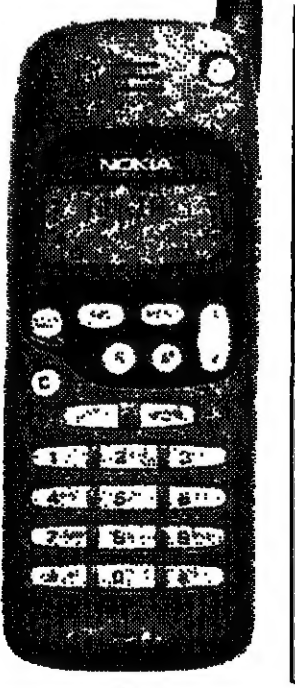
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Cellphones

A trend is emerging. Editors are younger. They are given relatively little time to make their mark. They are not the seemingly all-powerful titans of a generation ago. This transformation in their role and status reveals a great deal about the people who employ them.

Roy Greenslade on the editors

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'I knew by the look on this man's face he was a danger. His eyes were glazed. He was robotic. His friends stood back and he hit Brian and dragged him to the ground'



A distraught Connie Casey during a press conference yesterday in Sydney following the murder of her boyfriend, Brian Hagland. top left

Bondi Beach killer was 'like a robot'

THE girlfriend of the British holidaymaker Brian Hagland, who was murdered near Bondi Beach at the weekend, spoke yesterday of the moment he was attacked by "a robot".

Connie Casey, aged 25, told a press conference in Sydney, Australia: "He didn't know these people. They just picked him off the street, and they killed him. He didn't stand a chance."

Miss Casey said she and Mr Hagland, who is the cousin of EastEnders actor Sid Owen, were on their way home from her leaving party from her job at the Australian Trade

Commission. It was then that Mr Hagland, a 28-year-old postman from West Hampstead, north London, and Miss Casey were approached by two youths thought to be high on drugs.

Miss Casey said: "These men were coming towards us and I just knew by the look on this man's face he was dangerous and was going to do something. I said to Brian 'don't say anything to him'. I was given a presentation of flowers from work and he was holding the flowers and holding my hand. He said 'I'm not going to do anything'."

"Then this man just ran up to him straight away and he

said 'come on, come on, let's have him'. And his friends stood back and he just punched Brian and dragged him to the ground. He was on top of him and I hit him with my bag, and was hitting and hitting him because my bag was quite heavy."

Miss Casey said she then went to get help. "When I came back he was unconscious and he was covered in blood. It happened in minutes. I didn't think it was serious at first. Of the man who attacked Mr Hagland, she said: "His eyes were glazed. He was robotic. He looked as if he didn't even see Brian."

She said that she had

known Mr Hagland for seven years and they had travelled to Australia with compensation she had received after being a victim of a robbery in which she was doused with petrol by thieves who threatened to set her alight.

Mr Hagland's mother Shirley, of West Hampstead, has told how Miss Casey had hoped the trip would settle her nerves after the hold-up last year while she was working in a jewellers in Kilburn, north London.

Ms Hagland told the People newspaper yesterday: "She was a very nervous girl because of what happened then, so God knows what this

will have done to her. When she rang to tell us the terrible news, she said she was drenched in Brian's blood as she tried to save him. I couldn't believe he was dead and broke down."

The couple had planned to get engaged in Tahiti later in the year. Miss Casey was in Australia on a work visa while Mr Hagland had a six-month travel visa.

A spokeswoman for Sydney police said they believe Mr Hagland's attacker was injured during the struggle as they found a trail of blood along Bondi Beach.

Mr Hagland's murder is the latest in a series of violent in-

cidents which have damaged the reputation of the famous mile-long beach in recent years.

Last Christmas rioting broke out when gangs of youths went on the rampage in the early hours of Boxing Day after the traditional festive beach party. In April, a Dorset backpacker Gawn Whalley, aged 22, was stabbed to death by a gang of youths as he walked on a neighbouring beach.

Australian police have spoken of a worrying new trend of "thrill seeking" attacks which are totally motiveless and often carried out by people high on drugs.

Pope backs search for Ulster peace

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

THE Pope yesterday threw his weight behind the search for peace in Northern Ireland when he called for courage from those involved in the all-party talks which resume at Stormont today after a summer of sectarian conflict.

Pope John Paul told pilgrims at his summer residence south of Rome that the Protestant and Catholic communities both desired an end to violence.

"They have given proof that peace and reconciliation are possible if everyone has the courage to embrace the path of dialogue, mutual understanding, respect for the legitimate rights of each person and, above all, human rights," he said after his regular Sunday angelus address.

The Pope said he hoped political leaders and others able to influence opinion would "pursue the true good of the beloved people of Northern Ireland and thus contribute to a true and just peace".

The talks resume today at Castle Buildings in east Belfast amid gloomy forecasts and as Protestants and Catholics appear more polarised by the events of this summer's marching season than for many years.

The Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and the non-sectarian Alliance Party have asked the North and South Ministers, Sir Patrick Mayhew, to decide if the two small loyalist parties which represent the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association can remain at the negotiating table while a death threat hangs over a former UVF

prisoner and Portadown hardliner, Bill Wright.

Members of the Progressive Unionists and the Progressive Democratic Party have been urged to distance themselves from the warning by the Combined Loyalist Military Command to Mr Wright, aged 36, to get out of Northern Ireland.

The multi-party negotiations will resume with an official objection lodged before the chairman, US Senator George Mitchell. It is then up to the British and Irish governments to decide if they should be allowed to stay.

The Democratic Unionists claim the threat is in breach of the Mitchell principles of non-violence and unless the loyalist representatives dissociate themselves, they should be barred. The DUP is unlikely to take part in full discussions until the decision is made.

Sir Patrick admitted at the weekend that the talks will be extremely difficult after Drumcree, where Orangemen staged a successful stand-off against the RUC.

Sir Patrick, addressing a British-Irish Association conference at Oxford, also admitted there had been a lack of insight into the intensity of feeling on both sides at the time of the stand-off, which brought Northern Ireland to a virtual halt.

"Nobody committed to peace and to the rule of law can look back on those dire events and see them as a victory," Sir Patrick said. "They were a defeat for the Province as a whole, for the democratic process and for all those who support and depend for their liberty upon the rule of law."

He admitted political progress had been "maddeningly slow" but said the resumed talks "are the only real game in town".

Young 'should not face trial'

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

CHILDREN under the age of 14 should no longer face prosecution in adult courts, Britain's leading professional magistrate says in a book published today.

Peter Badge, the chief metropolitan stipendiary magistrate, calls for radical changes to the system under which children as young as 10 can be tried for murder or manslaughter in the crown court.

In Children Who Kill he and other experts call for England and Wales to be brought into line with most other European countries and the US, which deal with young children who kill through the child care system. The age of criminal responsibility in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (10) and Scotland (eight) are among the lowest in the world.

In France the age of criminal responsibility is 13, in Germany, Austria, Italy and many east European countries 14, in Scandinavia 15, in Spain, Portugal and Poland 16, and in Belgium and Luxembourg 18. In England and Wales children can be prosecuted between the ages of 10 and 14 if it can be proven they knew what they did was wrong.

Mr Badge wants children under 14 to be dealt with by an expanded form of the family proceedings court. Special tribunals would decide guilt or innocence and other relevant issues of fact for those between 14 and 18.

"This should be made up of a special judge and two special lay magistrates; those selected should have the right inclinations, the right experience and, above all, the correct amount of training. There should be a second tribunal, a sentencing panel, consisting of a special judge, two special lay magistrates, an appropriately trained and experienced psychiatrist and a similarly trained and experienced social worker."

The book comes out of a recent London conference on juvenile killers attended by judges, social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists from the US, Canada and 17 European countries.

Many foreign commentators have criticised the system under which Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, who abducted and killed the 12-year-old toddler James Bulger in 1993, were tried aged 11 in an adult court.

Lawyers for the two have filed a claim with the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg, arguing that the trial, which made little concession to their youth, breached their human rights.

Figures show that killings by youngsters under 14 are rare and are not increasing. Between 1979 and 1994, eight were convicted of murder and four of manslaughter.

Labour hits at union's 'bully-boy tactics' over disruptive pupils

Teachers may face court action warns local government group

John Carvel
Education Editor

TEACHERS threatening strike action to force the expulsion of unruly pupils may be taken to court for contempt, under plans being considered by the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities to counter "bully-boy tactics".

Graham Lane, the association's education chairman, said councils were worried by last week's intervention by Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, to stop a 10-year-old returning to his class at a Nottinghamshire junior school.

After threatening industrial action, the union persuaded the governors of Man-

ton junior school in Worksop that Matthew Wilson should be taught by an outsider in isolation from staff and other pupils.

"We cannot accept the use of these bully-boy tactics to undermine the normal appeals procedure and damage the reputation of a child. We will be taking legal advice on the best form of judicial action open to us if this happens to one of our member authorities," Mr Lane said.

The union appeared to be acting in contempt of "quasi-judicial procedures" for handling appeals by parents against their children's expulsion from school, he said.

"We are seeking judicial action to uphold the rights of the pupils. The teachers concerned might find we dock their pay for breach of contract. That is one avenue we

would go down in the end. The names of children are being drifted across the newspapers when they have not been found guilty of any offences worthy of expulsion. We have to take the unions on to prevent this undermining of natural rights."

Mr Lane backed the Government's proposed reform of procedures for parents to appeal against an expulsion.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, wanted appeals panels to consider the interests of other children at the school as much as the interests of the expelled pupil.

Why should a disruptive child be given preference? said one mother, Wendy Watson.

Matthew's mother, 37-year-old Pamela Cliffe, who claims he is no more than high-spirited and "a bit of a devil", said: "I don't understand the situation. Matthew has been through hell over the past few weeks and needs help. I am tired of all the arguing."

ones using bully-boy tactics on other kids. What about teachers' rights and other children's rights to go about their business without being threatened with physical assault."

Mothers with children at the Worksop school were understood to be planning a picket today in protest at the appointment of a £14,000-a-year special needs teacher to supervise Matthew Wilson.

"If the authorities have money to throw about like this they should spend it for the benefit of all the children. There are plenty of pupils needing one-to-one tuition. Why should a disruptive child be given preference?" said one mother, Wendy Watson.

Matthew's mother, 37-year-old Pamela Cliffe, who claims he is no more than high-spirited and "a bit of a devil", said: "I don't understand the situation. Matthew has been through hell over the past few weeks and needs help. I am tired of all the arguing."

News in brief

Blair faces tough time in Scotland

TONY BLAIR can expect a frosty reception from Labour activists when he arrives in Scotland this morning for a two-day tour that has turned into an enforced peace mission following the party's volte face on a devolution referendum.

Tonight Mr Blair faces an audience of 800 in Aberdeen for a question and answer session. "He wants the questioning to be as hard as possible," a Labour spokesman said yesterday. The party leader is certain to be interrogated about his role in Friday's jettisoning of the second devolution referendum agreed by the party's Scottish executive only six days earlier.

That, plus the imposition of the now reluctantly-accepted first referendum, touched the raw nerve of the Scottish party's status vis a vis the national organisation. Although it likes to consider itself sovereign on matters of policy north of the border, the Scottish executive is constitutionally a sub-committee of the national executive. — *Erlend Clouston*

Pollution threat to lakes

AN OFFICIAL study saying nearly all Britain's lakes are polluted yesterday brought calls from environmental campaigners for tighter controls on industry and agriculture.

Research for the Environment Agency found that 88.6 per cent of Britain's 12,500 or more lakes had been significantly polluted. Popular lakes, including Windermere and Loch Leven, were among the worst affected. An Environment Agency spokeswoman said the agency was working closely with industry to improve sewage treatment, and talking with farmers on the dangers of intensive use of fertilisers.

A spokesman for Friends of the Earth said: "It is vital the Government takes immediate control of the situation."

Lottery 'to bring 13,000 jobs'

AN ECONOMIST yesterday predicted that the National Lottery will create or safeguard more than 13,000 jobs in the next five years. Jeremy Peat, chief economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland, also calculated the lottery will assist the construction industry by £1.3 billion a year.

London would attract £316 million in construction spending, or \$46 per head, twice the UK average. Construction spending is second highest in Scotland at £141 million. The South-east and the North-west of England, and Wales are forecast to exceed £100 million each year, while in Northern Ireland the sum will be £27 million.

Five people shared Saturday's £8.1 million jackpot — with winning numbers 5, 13, 15, 44, 18, 32, and bonus number 41.

'Pusher' constable arrested

A POLICE constable was arrested yesterday following a claim that he is a drug pusher. The Sunday Mail reported that Euan Ranson, aged 26 and an officer in the Grampian force, sold a reporter ecstasy tablets and offered to supply cocaine.

The force said that allegations were being investigated. Grampian last week became the first police force in Britain to bring in drug-testing. — *Erlend Clouston*

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School warned not to exclude 5-year-old boy having HIV test

John Carvel
Education Editor

THE Government warned last night that a 5-year-old boy who is undergoing HIV tests after stabbing himself with drug addicts' abandoned syringes should not be excluded from primary school, in spite of protests by parents.

Robert Lee found the discarded needles near his home in Grantham, Lincolnshire, and stuck them into his hands four times, imitating his diabetic grandmother's insulin injections. He was taken to

hospital for an Aids test and hepatitis vaccinations.

His mother, Joanne Lee, said Robert was ordered home on Friday by the head teacher at Huntingtower Road primary school after parents complained he might pose a risk to their children's health. It was his first week at school.

"I will be taking him back to school tomorrow, but I don't know what will happen when I get there. She it would be three months before the results of tests were known.

Parents with children at the school the boy bamed until he is given the all-clear. Mike Wentworth, the head teacher, was not available for comment.

However, the Department for Education and Employment said the 1944 Education Act did not allow schools to ban pupils on health grounds.

The Guardian
 Labour best 'with' women
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مكتبة الأصيل

Italy set for week of farce and fury

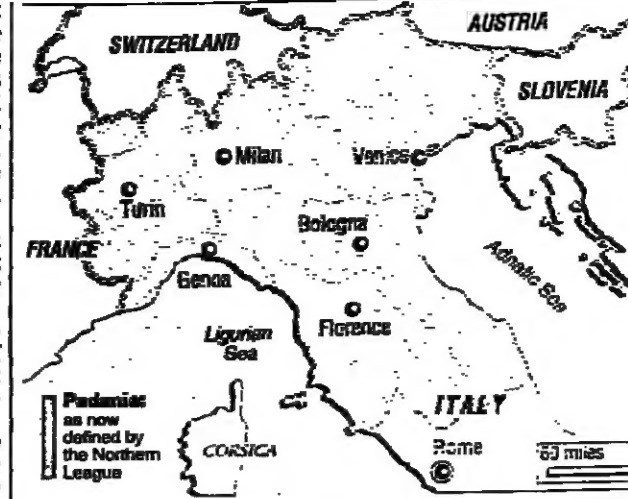
In the first of a series on separatism in Europe, John Hooper in Rome reports on the national wannabes of 'Padania'

THE former Greek prime minister and later president, Constantine Karmanlis, once claimed his country was a giant lunatic asylum with 10 million inmates. There are students of Italian politics who believe much the same could be said of Italy. Events over the coming week are likely to confirm them in that view. At the centre of what a newspaper columnist predicted will be "the most colorful political farce ever seen in Europe" is a wannabee country that has no common ethnic, linguistic or cultural heritage, has never spawned a conventional nationalist movement, and which not

even its promoters can define. "Padania" is the name Umberto Bossi, the leader of the Northern League, has chosen for the area of northern Italy whose unilateral independence he intends to declare next Sunday. For years, it was a term for the Po Valley. Where Mr Bossi's Padania begins and ends, nobody knows. For years, he insisted that what he wanted was a federal Italy comprising three regions: the north, south and centre. But last week one of his party's most senior officials said the aim was an independent state stretching to within 60 miles of Rome. Roberto Biza, the league's organisational secretary, said Padania would have 31 million inhabitants and cover an

area the size of England and Wales. In reality, few people apart from Mr Bossi want secession. Only 20 per cent of voters in regions which the league says form Padania backed the party at the last general election in April. Polls show that those who want to break up Italy are in a minority even among league voters. That is equally true of Mr Bossi's elected representatives. A few weeks ago, some of them were hinting broadly that the real aim of his threatened "secession" was to push the government in Rome to agree to a federal structure. Yet the new state is to be "baptised" at a ceremony in Turin on Friday. The following day, coaches are due to block bridges over the Po at Pavia, while at Mantua there are plans for a symbolic Padania versus Italy football match. On Sunday, Mr Bossi is to make his way in a convoy of

boats to the Po delta. There, at Chioggia, where a bonfire will be formed with facsimile radio and television licences in a protest against the RAI state broadcasting corporation, Mr Bossi is to proclaim I-D-I during a speech on the Campo Santo Stefano in Venice. In view of the apparent lack of support for it, it might seem that the league leader has lost touch with reality. Professor Renato Mannheimer, of the University of Genoa, who has carried out several studies of the movement, thinks not. "What Bossi is trying to do is to exploit a growing discontent with the political parties — the idea that they are all the same," he said. "The more he is attacked, the more he gets the votes of those who believe they are all the same." Certainly, Mr Bossi has been vilified and/or warned by most of the other party leaders, as well as by President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. Next weekend, he faces counter-demonstrations by, among others, Greens and former neo-fascists. A group of veterans plans to wrap a bridge over the River Brenta in huge Italian flags. And the



Padania is a new name for the Northern League. Far-right mayor of the southern city of Taranto is due to be joined by a hundred "neo-Garibaldians" from near Rome in a protest at the site of the league's annual rallies. In much of this there is a characteristically Italian

touch of comic opera. But things could get out of hand. There is an ugly side to the league, and since the general election Mr Bossi seems to have been doing his best to encourage it. In a recent speech, he referred to southerners with the perjorative term *torroni*, which has the connotation of peasants or yokels. While insisting that the league separation such as that between the Czechs and the Slovaks, he has also appeared to invite comparison with Italy's fascist dictator Benito Mussolini. The advance on Venice will be similar to a re-run of the fascists' "March on Rome". His party security force, the Green Shirts, echoes the fascists' Black Shirts. Its leader, a former karate instructor, last week threatened to use firearms on protesters from the south, adding that the mayor of Taranto would "not

return home" if he showed up for Saturday's protest. Underlying such extreme attitudes is growing discontent in the north over the inefficiency of a state apparatus for which many feel they pay too high taxes. "If you ask people up here, you find that very, very few are separatist," said Prof Mannheimer. "But that does not mean that if the government fails to react, a lot of them could not follow Bossi." Whether the centre-left government of Professor Romano Prodi intends to equip Italy with some form of federal structure, however, is no clearer today than when it took power last spring. Prof Mannheimer believes there is not much time left for Rome to regain public confidence, particularly on taxation. "September and October are going to be the decisive months." Next: Can the Belgians stay together?

Croat bastion waves flag of co-operation

Bosnian Elections
But the thaw in ties with Muslims may be a ploy, paving the way for partition, Julian Borger in Siroki Brijeg writes

AS IS customary at an election rally, there are flags everywhere — on the ubiquitous posters, picked out in stone on a distant hillside, and in the tireless hands of children. But what is striking about this particular corner of Bosnia-Herzegovina is that the flags are all Croatian. There is no Bosnian insignia in sight. The party holding the rally, the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), has its headquarters in Zagreb, the Croatian capital. The speeches from the podium celebrate the achievements and rail at the disappointments of "us Croats". Even the rhetoric you would think that Bosnia was in another continent. The number plates on the cars outside all bear the *sahovnica*, Croatia's red and white chequer-board emblem. The dialect is Croatian. The policemen wear Croatian uniforms. The chocolate, fruit and patriotic literature sold outside the football stadium hosting the rally are all priced in the Croatian currency, the kuna. The rally is an almost perfect reproduction of Croatian political life — except for one small flaw. The chequer-board shields on the flags and cars do not sport the blue border designed by President Franjo Tudjman to crown Croatia's own coat of arms. Western Herzegovina, with its overwhelmingly Croat population, still yearns to leave Bosnia and join the motherland. But the HDZ has come to the small town of Siroki Brijeg to tell its supporters to bide their time. "Peace is our choice," the posters say. Mate Loncar, the local HDZ candidate, takes the stage to promise a better future for Croats "in this region". There is no mention of Herzeg-Bosnia, the self-declared Croat republic carved out in Croatian areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina in a 10-month war against the Muslim-led Bosnian army in 1993. Despite a ceasefire the next year, the republic refused to fade away. Then on August 14, after relentless arm-twisting by the United States, the Croats agreed to abolish the separatist republic and form joint federation ministries with Bosnia's Muslims. Diplomats in nearby Mostar say there is no sign that the Herzeg-Bosnia administrative apparatus is being dismantled, but the rhetoric is being toned down. Siroki Brijeg is the centre of Croat nationalism in Bosnia. It was 99.2 per cent Croat before the war, and paramilitary groups from the town became some of the most feared forces in the battle for Mostar. Voters here are quick to take their cue from the ruling party. The crowd of 2,500 loves the folk band, and cheers the angry verses of the patriotic poet. But the separatist talk of earlier years is rare. Dijana Sliskovic, a Siroki

Brijeg housewife married to a member of the Bosnian Croat militia, said: "I don't think Herzeg-Bosnia is possible any more. We are under a lot of pressure to join the federation, and that is what Zagreb seems to want." The election-time thaw in relations between Croats and Muslims is also noticeable in the divided city of Mostar, 15 miles further east. Since local elections in June, a unified city council has been formed with a Croat mayor and a Muslim deputy. Expulsions of Muslims from Croat-run west Mostar have continued, but there are signs of a change in the tide. Of 12 Muslim families expelled since early August, five have been reinstated in their flats under Croat police protection in the past week. Sir Martin Garrod, the European Union special envoy who brokered the formation of the Mostar council, believes the experiment holds out a modicum of hope for the creation of multi-ethnic institutions after next Saturday's countrywide elections. "If you have an administration which is catering for the wishes, desires, aspirations and the security of both sides you are far less likely to slip back into anarchy and bloodshed," he said. However, many observers of Bosnia's ethnic politics fear the shift towards co-operation with Muslims is temporary and tactical, while the election sets the scene for a long-term drift to partition. "Herzeg-Bosnia has been put on the back burner for now, while Tudjman is going for membership of the Council of Europe and so on. But we're going to come out of these elections with this place even tighter under his control and even more detachable from the rest of Bosnia," said a Western diplomat in Mostar. The HDZ is poised to fortify its already fearsome hold on western Herzegovina on Saturday. It is the only party visible — its opposition has been intimidated out of public life. Jole Musa, a liberal Croat standing on a joint list with Muslim candidates for the federation parliament, receives regular death threats from anonymous telephone callers, and has not even tried to campaign. He keeps his party badge, showing a clock approaching midnight, out of sight. "If I wore this around town, I'd get it in the back of the head," he said, miming a cocked pistol. "If we put up posters, it would be the same thing. And there's no way we can get on television." He believes the elections are premature. "We should have started with refugees coming back, and trying to establish normal life. America has imposed its own politics on us. This is all supposed to be a big plus in Clinton's reelection." The HDZ is also polarising the ethnic map. Voters from Croat pockets further north in the federation have been registered in Herzegovina, and will be bussed in on Saturday. Herzeg-Bosnia may be dormant, but should it awake after the elections, it will be stronger than ever.



A young Bosnian Serb supporter at a Serbian Democratic Party rally in the town of Rogatica wears a mask of Radovan Karadzic. PHOTOGRAPH: ENRIG MARTI

I-For ready to guard ballot with the bullet

David Fairhall
Defence Correspondent
CONSCIOUS that their chances of getting home for Christmas or the New Year may well depend on the successful conduct of this month's Bosnian elections, soldiers of the Nato-led I-For peace implementation force are making every effort to ensure that the voting is not disrupted by violence. Formal responsibility for running the elections lies with the OSCE (Organisation for Co-operation and Security in Europe), supposedly protected by local police backed by an international police task force. But military commanders have given all kinds of assistance, from checking polling stations for mines to offering to guard ballot boxes on their way to and from Sarajevo. This week new guidance cards will be issued to the troops, detailing how the already "robust" Nato rules of engagement should be applied during the election. More than 3,000 polling stations, unused since 1991, will be needed for the national and regional elections. (Local council elections were postponed, amid protests, last week.) Every one of the stations has been checked by military reconnaissance parties in the past six weeks to see if they are still usable. In the south-west sector of Bosnia — where most of Britain's 10,000 troops are working with Canadians, Czechs, Dutch and Malaysians under the command of Major General John Kiszely at Banja Luka — each station that is still available has been mapped to show how it can be approached safely without encountering landmines. I-For is also helping to distribute information on how to register and exactly where people should go to vote. "The procedure will work because we are going to make it work," said Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Brook, the sector commander's spokesman. For Bosnian refugees living in Croatia, Serbia, Germany, Turkey and elsewhere, voting began last week. Members of the various local militias vote on September 13, and the main civilian vote is cast on September 14. The plan is to take ballot boxes under military guard to Sarajevo where the displaced persons' voting papers will be added, and then returned to local stations for counting. The whole process will be monitored by about 1,300 international observers, who began arriving last week. Another crucial job for I-For is to ensure freedom of movement, having so far suppressed the tendency of local police and militias to set up intimidating checkpoints at every convenient road junction. Such checkpoints are now forbidden, but I-For commanders are preparing for many other kinds of intimidation and disruption. While maintaining law and order is formally the responsibility of the local authorities and the police, I-For has plotted areas of concern where it is prepared to take pre-emptive action.

Two members, the authors Keratin Ekman and Lars Gyllensten, have not attended the meetings since 1989, when Mr Allen refused to allow the academy to renounce Iran's *Khatam al-Molanis*. A third member, Werner Aspenstam, a writer aged 78, has also stopped attending, saying he no longer has the energy for committees. This week Knut Ahnlund, a respected professor of literature, said he would boycott the proceedings until Mr Allen was replaced. "The official duties of the academy should be delegated to more academy members. Mr Allen is on practically every committee there is," he said. At least one other ageing member, Johannes Edfelt, who will be 92 this year, has said he feels tired and has nothing left to contribute to the discussions. Mr Allen insisted it would be possible to select a winner of the 274,000 prize, whose past winners include W. B. Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, T. S. Eliot, Jean-Paul Sartre and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. "Fourteen members are more than enough," he declared. "Those that are there are working enthusiastically and I'm confident everyone will turn up when it counts."

Book thrown at Nobel judges

Jon Henley in Helsinki
THE characterisation is undeniably strong and the suspense masterly, but the committee that awards the world's most prestigious writing prize is in danger of losing the plot. Riven by internal feuds and depleted by the absence of elderly and infirm members, the Swedish Academy may not have enough members to award this year's Nobel Prize for Literature. A rule dating from 1901, when the prize was first awarded, requires at least 13 of the committee's 18 members to select the winner. But only 14 currently attend the academy's deliberations in Stockholm, and — according to the Swedish press — more are likely to drop out soon. "There is a real risk that the 12 votes necessary will be difficult to obtain," the *Expressen* newspaper said. "Several members are sick, and others are just fed up." The academy is banned from recruiting replacements by a decree from Sweden's King Gustav III, who ruled more than 200 years ago that members must serve for life. "You can be thrown out or die, but you can't resign," said Sture Allen, a professor of linguistics and the academy's controversial secretary. "It can get a bit difficult if people clearly want to leave while they're still alive." Two members, the authors Keratin Ekman and Lars Gyllensten, have not attended the meetings since 1989, when Mr Allen refused to allow the academy to renounce Iran's *Khatam al-Molanis*. A third member, Werner Aspenstam, a writer aged 78, has also stopped attending, saying he no longer has the energy for committees. This week Knut Ahnlund, a respected professor of literature, said he would boycott the proceedings until Mr Allen was replaced. "The official duties of the academy should be delegated to more academy members. Mr Allen is on practically every committee there is," he said. At least one other ageing member, Johannes Edfelt, who will be 92 this year, has said he feels tired and has nothing left to contribute to the discussions. Mr Allen insisted it would be possible to select a winner of the 274,000 prize, whose past winners include W. B. Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, T. S. Eliot, Jean-Paul Sartre and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. "Fourteen members are more than enough," he declared. "Those that are there are working enthusiastically and I'm confident everyone will turn up when it counts."

Herzeg-Bosna is on a back burner. The elections will make it even more detachable from the rest of Bosnia

urday. It is the only party visible — its opposition has been intimidated out of public life. Jole Musa, a liberal Croat standing on a joint list with Muslim candidates for the federation parliament, receives regular death threats from anonymous telephone callers, and has not even tried to campaign. He keeps his party badge, showing a clock approaching midnight, out of sight. "If I wore this around town, I'd get it in the back of the head," he said, miming a cocked pistol. "If we put up posters, it would be the same thing. And there's no way we can get on television." He believes the elections are premature. "We should have started with refugees coming back, and trying to establish normal life. America has imposed its own politics on us. This is all supposed to be a big plus in Clinton's reelection." The HDZ is also polarising the ethnic map. Voters from Croat pockets further north in the federation have been registered in Herzegovina, and will be bussed in on Saturday. Herzeg-Bosnia may be dormant, but should it awake after the elections, it will be stronger than ever.

Beauty is skin deep in Miss Italy race row

John Hooper in Rome
THE Miss Italy contest ended in uproar on Saturday night when the title was won by a black immigrant. Whistles of disapproval were audible above the applause as Dominican-born Denny Mendez burst into tears on stage. Still crying, she was crowned by a juror who hours earlier had said a black should not represent Italian womanhood. Yesterday, newspapers added fuel to the controversy: *La Stampa* headlined its story "Denny Mendez is the first Miss Black"; and *Il Giornale* declared "Miss Italy is Dominican". In fact, the winner is an Italian citizen and has an Italian father. The competition organisers say Ms Mendez, aged 18, not only won most jury

votes but was the choice of television viewers. Despite many Italians' passionate insistence that they are not racist, to outsiders the definition of who qualifies as Italian seems restricted. Half-Italians, for example, are often referred to as foreigners. Ironically, it was a half-Italian, the fashion photographer "Bob" Krieger, who prompted the row last week. In an interview, he said Ms Mendez should not be chosen because "she does not represent the beauty that is typical of Italy". Mr Krieger was thrown off the panel of judges. On Saturday, another judge, Alba Parietti, said she agreed. She too was expelled, but reinstated after a bizarre semi-retraction. "I let slip my thoughts, not being aware of the rules, which allow any girl of Italian nationality, whatever her colour, to take part," she said. Ms Parietti crowned the winner.

Italy is also helping to distribute information on how to register and exactly where people should go to vote. "The procedure will work because we are going to make it work," said Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Brook, the sector commander's spokesman. For Bosnian refugees living in Croatia, Serbia, Germany, Turkey and elsewhere, voting began last week. Members of the various local militias vote on September 13, and the main civilian vote is cast on September 14. The plan is to take ballot boxes under military guard to Sarajevo where the displaced persons' voting papers will be added, and then returned to local stations for counting. The whole process will be monitored by about 1,300 international observers, who began arriving last week. Another crucial job for I-For is to ensure freedom of movement, having so far suppressed the tendency of local police and militias to set up intimidating checkpoints at every convenient road junction. Such checkpoints are now forbidden, but I-For commanders are preparing for many other kinds of intimidation and disruption. While maintaining law and order is formally the responsibility of the local authorities and the police, I-For has plotted areas of concern where it is prepared to take pre-emptive action.

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➔ If we don't have feminism, men won't change: why should they, if we're saying they are all right as they are? We cannot give up on politics unless we really do believe this is as good as it gets.
Charlotte Raven on the state of feminism

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مکان الیوم

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Troops of Baghdad's new-found ally, the Kurdistan Democratic Party, stand guard near Irbil at the weekend against attack by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. PHOTOGRAPH: NURI KAYNAR

US plays down reports of Baghdad's involvement • Refugees flee as last Talabani base threatened

Iraq's Kurdish allies take key towns

Chris Nuttall near Irbil, northern Iraq

GUERRILLAS of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan were pushed further back towards their last stronghold of Sulaymaniyah yesterday, as the PUK's radio and television stations reported the heavy involvement of Iraqi forces in the advance of their rival, the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

Besieged PUK guerrillas pleaded for United States help after their defences crumbled under an assault by the KDP, which in just hours captured the key junction of Degala, 20 miles south-east of the regional capital Irbil, and then the town of Kuysanjaq.

"Urgent and decisive help is needed. We call on the US-led coalition to move urgently to stop the Iraqi onslaught," the PUK said in a statement.

The KDP denied Iraqi involvement, at least in the Degala takeover, but it was not clear if Baghdad's forces were directly involved in the capture of Kuysanjaq.

The PUK media's reports on the clashes prompted a flood of refugees south in coaches, trucks, minibuses, cars and even bulldozers, loaded with beds, blankets, utensils and television sets.

They spoke of heavy Iraqi shelling, armoured vehicles on the road and even the use of chemical weapons. There was no evidence to support this and the chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, Gen-

eral John Shalikashvili, played down the reports of Baghdad's involvement.

"I don't know to what degree there's active assistance," he said. "But what you're seeing is Kurdish fighting. The United States, rather than siding with one Kurdish faction, has always put its effort on trying to get the two sides together to resolve their differences."

The KDP has now secured the approaches to Irbil which it captured on August 31 with the support of President Saddam Hussein's forces. It may press on to seize the Dukan dam to the east, from where the PUK cut Irbil's power supply and created a water crisis.

"Now we push Jalal Talabani [the PUK leader] all the way back to his Iran," said

one smiling KDP fighter at a checkpoint yesterday, referring to Mr Talabani's alleged alliance with Tehran.

In Sulaymaniyah, the fear is not so much of the KDP to the north-west but of Iraqi armour, 50 miles to the south. Each evening in the city of more than a million people, many Kurds go through the ritual of packing their cars with possessions, ready to flee if Baghdad's forces attack during the night.

Their nightmare became reality in 1991, when Sulaymaniyah was sacked by Iraqi forces suppressing a Kurdish uprising. Suburbs were razed and helicopter gunships attacked refugees fleeing to the mountains and Iran.

"People feel it is not a matter of if, but when, Saddam is

coming," said Ian Wilderspin, the acting field director of the Save the Children Fund in the city. A suitcase lay open by his desk, filled with books and a framed photograph.

The aid organisations are worried that their five years of hard work in putting the Kurds back on their feet could be wiped out. Significant progress had been made in the rehabilitation of villages and in improving agricultural methods.

Already the suspension of humanitarian aid to the Kurds through the oil-for-food provisions of United Nations Resolution 986, following the capture of Irbil, threatens a food crisis.

Iraq said its air defence units engaged a US warplane violating its air space yesterday.

day but missed, although the intruder was forced to flee. On Saturday, it said it had fired missiles at US planes policing the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq.

Ankara's foreign minister, Tansu Ciller, said yesterday that Turkey ultimately planned to monitor Kurdish rebel activity in northern Iraq with an electronic system, eliminating the need to keep troops there.

Turkey has said a security zone, which would be temporary, is needed to halt infiltration by separatist rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Turkish troops have been massing on the border with Iraq in apparent readiness to push against the PKK.

Saddam's assault on Irbil broke CIA-funded operation

Jeffrey Smith in Washington reports on a secret fund to destabilise Baghdad and the apparent execution of more than 100 Iraqis

THE Iraqi military's takeover of Irbil, which was controlled by independent Kurdish groups, broke up a long-standing CIA-funded covert operation to destabilise the Baghdad government and led to the arrest and apparent execution of more than 100 Iraqis associated with the effort, according to United States officials and Iraqi dissident sources.

The destruction of the headquarters in Irbil of the Iraqi National Congress, which Washington had set up in 1992 as an alternative to the regime of President Saddam Hussein, has fulfilled a main ambition of the Iraqi security services, the officials said. The dissident group never posed a serious challenge to President Saddam's power and had been in decline for the past 18 months, largely because of Kurdish feuds.

But it had repeatedly harassed the Baghdad government. The dissidents disseminated anti-Saddam leaflets, books, television programmes and radio broadcasts, employed hundreds of Iraqi defectors and collected detailed military intelligence they passed on to Washington.

When Irbil fell, President Saddam's security agents held house-to-house searches for its leaders. They had a list of names

and addresses of National Congress members, according to officials of the group in Sulaymaniyah, and in Washington and London. The security agents looked for the group's headquarters, seizing hi-tech communications equipment and computers, purchased with millions of dollars in covert CIA funds.

The apparent execution of more than 100 Congress members captured by the Iraqi secret police on August 31 near the town of Qushtapa has added to the CIA's loss. They had assembled in Irbil on August 28-29 as part of a police force being created at US urging to halt Kurdish in-fighting.

"We have a lot of reports that the Congress was a subject of the Iraqi effort," a senior state department official said. Two other senior US officials said the group's reports of mass exe-

cutions had been accepted by Washington as credible, although details of the episodes are scarce.

National Congress officials in Iraq and elsewhere said hundreds of others whom the Iraqi security agents suspected of involvement with the group were rounded up in the next few days and taken to Iraqi prisons in Kirkuk and Mosul. Their fate is unknown, but a US defence official said at the weekend: "I don't doubt that many have been slain."

A handful of American CIA officers who had been covertly stationed in a suburb of Irbil before the Iraqi attack were able to escape by leaving on August 30, reaching southern Turkey after passing through the northern town of Zakuhi, according to several sources.

The officers had been

stationed in the town to collect intelligence and question defectors, and they lacked the capability to help evacuate others, according to one source.

"This whole thing came down around them. Basically, they sat tight for as long as they could"

ally, they sat tight for as long as they could. The absence of US protection for Congress members in Irbil has provoked complaints from some of those associated with the group, who say Washington washed its hands of the dis-

sidents once the Iraqi assault was under way.

"From my personal point of view, no one has offered us any help on the ground," said General Jalal Al-Ubaidy, head of the Congress military forces, speaking on a satellite telephone from Sulaymaniyah, where the group is trying to re-establish headquarters.

"On the day of the attack, a lot of my people kept asking, 'When are the Americans going to attack the Iraqi side?'" the Congress officer said. "A lot of our people feel extremely disappointed and bitter."

Another well-placed Iraqi dissident echoed the complaint: "We got nothing, zilch, from Washington even though everything we had built in Irbil was based on the premise that America would prevent an attack by Saddam on the city." — Washington Post.

Virgin scandal shakes Mexico

Phil Gunson in Mexico City

THE controversial abbot of the wealthiest and most visited Catholic shrine in the Americas — the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico City — resigned at the weekend.

Monsignor Guillermo Schulenburg, who is over 80, said his "spontaneous" decision was due to age. But most observers believe he was forced

out as a result of the revelation earlier this year that he regarded the story of the 1531 appearance of the virgin as legend rather than historical fact.

In a 1995 interview uncovered by the Italian magazine, 30 Giorni, Msgr Schulenburg, who was appointed to the post "for life" in 1983, said Juan Diego — the Indian to whom the virgin is said to have appeared on Tepeyac hill — was "a symbol, not a reality".

His remarks caused a huge scandal in Mexico, where the dark-skinned virgin is not just an object of religious veneration but perhaps the single most important emblem of nationhood.

His war of independence and the Mexican revolution were both fought under her banner, and an estimated 10 million pilgrims visit the shrine every year.

"How can this gentleman be in charge of the basilica when he makes such stupid remarks?" said Fr Joaquin Escalante, head of Mexico's ecclesiastical tribunal.

"Poor old man, he's gone soft in the head," added Monsignor Enrique Salazar, who, as director of the Centre of Guadalupan Studies, was a

prime mover in the beatification of Juan Diego.

Despite the beatification, the Vatican has never asserted the historical accuracy of the legend, which many scholars believe to be a highly successful ploy by the Spaniards to win over the indigenous population.

The "miraculous" portrait of the virgin, said to have been imprinted on Juan

The principal mystery is the disappearance of huge sums of money'

Diego's tunic, incorporates a subtle blend of Catholic and indigenous religious symbols.

Nor is it a coincidence that the shrine was established on the spot where the Indians worshipped Tonantzin, the Aztec goddess of motherhood.

Some, however, see the abbot's resignation as the final skirmish in a long-running battle over control of the shrine's multi-million-dollar income, which Msgr Schul-

enburg had sought to separate from the archdiocese of Mexico City.

"The principal mystery of the Basilica of Guadalupe is not the appearance of the virgin but the disappearance of the huge sums of money the people of Mexico deposit in the shrine," said Horacio Senties, who has written extensively on the subject.

Pressure has been growing among clergy and bishops for an independent audit of the basilica, and the abbot has been accused of living a life of ostentatious wealth.

A weekly magazine, Proceso, alleges: "From being a poor, orphan seminarian, Msgr Schulenburg became the owner of well-appointed residences in Mexico City and Cuernavaca."

His resignation, which takes effect on October 31, will allow Archbishop Norberto Rivera to carry out a huge overhaul of the basilica's administration.

Fr Escalante said the scandal has made believers "much more fervent than before". Proof, perhaps, of the validity of the Mexican saying that the country has three untouchable institutions: the presidency, the army and the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Poor turnout blunts Okinawan call for fewer American troops

AP in Manila

OKINAWAN voters answered with a resounding Yes yesterday in an unprecedented referendum on whether there are too many American troops on their islands in southern Japan.

Of those who voted, 89.1 per cent were in favour of reducing the United States military presence on Okinawa and changing a bilateral agreement that gives the troops special legal status.

However, the turnout — 59.5 per cent of the 910,000 eligible voters — was lower than expected. This lifted some of the pressure on Japan's prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, and the Clinton administration to reduce the forces immediately.

The referendum follows a year of tension between Okinawans and the nearly 30,000 US troops stationed here.

The worst anti-base demonstrations erupted after three US servicemen raped a girl aged 12 last September.

The strongly anti-base result, although widely expected and not legally binding, was an important victory for Okinawa's governor, Masahide Ota, a popular and out-

spoken opponent of the US troops.

Mr Ota is expected to use the result as a bargaining chip when he meets Mr Hashimoto tomorrow. He has vowed to continue his efforts to have all the bases removed by 2015.

Mr Hashimoto has said solving the bases issue is his administration's top priority. But his calls for other parts of Japan to share the load have been met with protests at prospective relocation sites.

Turnout was particularly low, and the pro-base vote high, near the bases — where thousands of Okinawans are going to attack the "Iraqi side?" the Congress officer said. "A lot of our people feel extremely disappointed and bitter."

Another well-placed Iraqi dissident echoed the complaint: "We got nothing, zilch, from Washington even though everything we had built in Irbil was based on the premise that America would prevent an attack by Saddam on the city." — Washington Post.

News in brief

Russian footwork defeats Chechens

RUSSIAN soldiers beat Chechen rebels 3-1 yesterday in a soccer match in the regional capital Grozny, where a fragile peace is holding after the withdrawal of troops and separatist forces.

Tar-Tass news agency said the match between the St Petersburg Oron crack police squad and the rebels of field commander Arbi Kurbanov took place after the pitch had been cleared of mines left in 21 months of fierce fighting.

Tass said the Oron servicemen and the rebels now formed a single group patrolling the city's Novopromyslovsky district.

A battalion of Russian troops began pulling out of Chechnya yesterday, the first to withdraw under a peace deal with the rebels negotiated by the Russian security chief, General Alexander Lebed.

Meanwhile in Moscow, Interfax news agency reported that President Boris Yeltsin shot more than 40 ducks and a wild boar on a hunting trip with the German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, near the official residence where he will undergo heart surgery. — *Reuter, Moscow.*

Aid reaches Liberia's starving

A UNITED Nations aid agency said yesterday that it would deliver today the first food for eight months to the besieged town of Tubmanburg in western Liberia, where relief workers have found thousands of people starving.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said a team that reached the jungle town on Saturday believed more than half its estimated 35,000 inhabitants were suffering from extreme hunger and hundreds of children were close to death.

"It's a green hell," the WFP's Liberia country director, Tarek Elgundul, said after visiting the town, 45 miles north-west of the capital Monrovia.

Officials of the Rome-based WFP and other aid agencies are taking advantage of a peace deal agreed by rival factions in Liberia's six-year civil war to enter Tubmanburg, which has been cut off since February.

Mr Elgundul said one member of his team rated the situation as "worse than in Somalia in terms of the concentration of hungry people and the severity of the cases".

He said inhabitants had lived on soup from boiled tree leaves and eaten a wild red flower. "I've never seen such a massive number of hungry people," he said. — *Reuter, Rome.*

'Cold war' anthem dropped

NICARAGUA'S leftwing Sandinista Front has dropped its controversial anthem and instead adopted Beethoven's Ode to Joy, the former Sandinista president Daniel Ortega said on Saturday.

The old anthem, which contained the phrase "The Yankee is the enemy of humanity", was a relic of the cold war when the Sandinistas and the United States government were sworn enemies, Mr Ortega said.

The Sandinistas are trying to present a moderate image and improve relations with the US as they prepare for Nicaragua's presidential elections on October 20.

Mr Ortega said the US government's attitude had changed and the two powers could now work together. "The Sandinista anthem with those lyrics reflects a past era," he said.

A CID-Gallup poll last week showed him with 30 per cent of the vote, closing the gap on Arnoldo Aleman of the rightwing Liberal Alliance with 34 per cent. — *Reuter, Managua.*

High turnout for Kashmiri poll

KASHMIRIS voted to choose their own government for the first time in nine years at the weekend, turning out in great numbers than during parliamentary elections four months ago.

Election officials said the average turnout in the first of four rounds of balloting was 53 per cent. Journalists in the border areas, which voted on Saturday, reported enthusiastic crowds at many stations. Despite a boycott by pro-separatist parties and threats by armed groups, voting passed off peacefully.

However, some villagers accused security forces of ordering them out of their homes, in a repetition of the coercion used to ensure a high turnout in the May vote. Separatist leaders were put under house arrest until the close of polls.

The Indian government hopes the elections, which end nine years of direct rule from New Delhi, will produce a government willing to negotiate more autonomy for the state while remaining within the union. — *Suzanne Goldberg, New Delhi.*

Rebels halt food supplies

THREATS from guerrillas have prevented truckloads of food reaching Colombia's capital Bogota, increasing food prices for the 7 million inhabitants, suppliers said on Saturday.

They said the price of plantains, maize and other products had risen by up to 40 per cent since the rebels declared "transport strikes" and threatened to burn vehicles.

The threats are part of a week-long rebel offensive — the biggest in decades — in which dozens of police and soldiers have died. Authorities say the attacks are in retaliation for government efforts to destroy coca crops, the plant used to make cocaine.

Many guerrilla units are involved in drug trafficking.

Rebels killed 19 soldiers in an attack on Friday on a military base in a southern region dotted with large coca plantations.

They have also stopped traffic on roads in many provinces, burning buses, taxis and other vehicles defying their warnings. Losses to bus companies and other businesses are estimated to be millions of dollars.

About 2,000 trucks — 500 fewer than usual — have been arriving each day at Bogota's food supply centre. — *AP, Bogota.*



Six hundred Egyptian couples celebrate at a mass wedding party in a hockey stadium in Cairo, under the patronage of President Hosni Mubarak's wife, Suzanne. The event was organised to help young people avoid the expense of private wedding receptions

Oprah talks her way to top

OPRAH Winfrey has again been ranked top of Forbes magazine's list of the 40 best paid entertainers. Her combined earnings for this year and last reached \$171 million (about £114 million).

That puts her \$21 million ahead of director Steven Spielberg, in the number two position.

"The reigning queen of talk television, Oprah just keeps on going," the magazine says in its latest issue.

Next on the list are the Beatles, pop singer Michael Jackson, the Rolling Stones, the Eagles, Arnold Schwarzenegger, magician David Copperfield, actor Jim Carrey and author Michael Crichton. — *AP, New York.*

Pope protest takes the cake

CREAM cakes and water-filled condoms were thrown by about 30 protesters who disrupted a service in Nantes cathedral, western France, yesterday. They threatened more attacks if the Pope visits the area later this month, police said.

No one was hurt but the priest conducting the service was knocked to the ground by the missiles. Fluffights broke out as the demonstrators were chased by members of the congregation. Two people were arrested but later released.

The protest was led by Georges Le Goumpier, a Belgian anarchist. He said that the attacks would continue unless the Pope cancelled his visit later this month. — *Reuter, Paris.*

Book thrown at Nobel judges

illet

an won't change: why they are all right as in politics unless we d as it gets.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE
MARE ST. LONDON E8 4SA
(Charity Ref. No. 231323)

Since 1905 we have shared the grief and eased the pain of countless suffering souls. Last year alone 900 found peace with the help of your vital gifts. Most of them died of cancer — but so severely that you would hardly know. Your concern is as encouraging as your generosity and we thank you for your inspiring trust.

Sister Superior.

Tell-tale Tom spills the beans

Time to come clean on crime

IT IS meant to be little boys — not junior ministers — who tell Emperors they have no clothes on. Emperor Howard will not be pleased. His junior minister, Tom Sackville, blurted out an awkward truth at the weekend — a truth which the Home Secretary has wilfully tried to deny: the link between unemployment and crime. Speaking at a conference of crime prevention specialists at Tyneside, Mr Sackville decided to treat them as adults. He conceded successive governments — Conservative as well as Labour — had made "dreadful mistakes" ruining whole industries by failing to maintain low inflation. The consequent unemployment was one cause for the rise in crime. Poor housing, less parental authority, fewer two-parent families were other causes.

In a sane society, such basic comments should have little impact. But in the puerile world in which ministers insist the debate about law 'n' order should take place, the speech will run and run. The Daily Telegraph turned it into a front page splash under the headlines: "Howard's minister blames politicians — Tory Admits Jobless Link With Crime." Not since David Stevens, a Metropolitan police commander, blamed "social and economic malaise" for the record rise in crime in 1982, will there have been such a flurry at the Home Office. But Mr Sackville, unlike Mr Stevens, is meant to be "One of Us". It is not hard to predict what will happen to Mr Sackville at his carpeting this morning. He will be reminded by Michael Howard that Margaret Thatcher, John Major and successive home secretaries have all denied the link between unemployment and crime — even though public opinion surveys show that three out of four people recognised this truth years ago.

Here are some lines which Mr Sackville might use in response. There is nothing new in suggesting unemployment generates crimes — Von Mayr (1867), Poletti (1862), and Ferri (1900) were discussing such links a century ago. Blaming the police for the rise in crime won't work. As Commander Stevens noted, it is as silly to blame the police for the rise in crime as to blame doctors for an increase in disease. Then there is the awkward problem of the work of the Home Secretary's own research department, the biggest in Europe, which has shown the links between economic and criminal cycles. Of course there are other reasons for the rise in crime apart from social deprivation. Economic upturns, for example, lead to an increase in alcohol-related violence. Of course people in jobs commit crimes and many people suffering from social deprivation do not, but even so there remains a disproportionate number of people suffering from unemployment, poor housing, and inadequate parenting who do commit crimes. There is no point in ministers closing their eyes to such facts. Indeed, they need to address a threatening development highlighted by Home Office researchers earlier this year: the trend for young men to continue in crime through their 20s rather than abruptly drop it as they used to do.

Mr Sackville could add two further points. First that the next six-monthly crime figures, due later this month, will be bad news for ministers who have been bragging about the recent small fall in crime. An upturn has begun. Second, and more pertinently for a Home Secretary who lives by the polls, his present headline approach is not impressing the public. The latest Gallup poll, published in last Friday's Daily Telegraph, shows Labour nine points ahead of the Conservatives — a gain of 34 points since 1992 — in public confidence in handling crime. On only one other issue, Europe, has there been a higher switch to Labour over the last five years.

A wise Home Secretary would learn his lesson and stop playing to the populist gallery. The public do not want rhetoric but realistic solutions. His own researchers, in this year's youth crime study, set out some important prevention policies for diverting young people from crime: more support for families, more preparation for parenthood classes, improving parental supervision, reducing truancy and school exclusion, more school-parent contracts. Commander Stevens, four years ago, asked ministers to tackle "the quality of life". This would mean tackling each of the separate elements of social deprivation — unemployment, poor housing, reductions in benefits. Church groups and social reformers have rightly pointed to the widening — and obscene — gap between the better-off and the poor. It must be narrowed. Moreover, none of this will be achieved by political parties intent on reducing public expenditure. If Michael Howard genuinely wanted to reduce crime, there would be no tax cuts for the better-off. Now his nakedness has been exposed, he might as well accept some naked truths.

THE essence of market economics, also known as laissez faire, is that governments should not interfere with the economy but should leave everything to the market mechanism. This is now the status quo. It is therefore self-evident, that when the Labour leadership talks of "managing the economy better" while accepting the status quo, it is being inconsistent. It is not possible to manage the economy while at the same time leaving everything to the markets.

The problem with laissez faire is that it does not work. When companies slash their staff levels or introduce part-time working, they forget that it is the people who produce the goods and services who are also the customers who buy them.

Terry Parson,
48 Denton Road,
Twickenham,
Middlesex TW1 2HQ.

IT IS difficult to express how disappointed I am that Tony Blair has jumped on the Tory tax-cutting bandwagon (Blair faces scorn over tax switch, September 7). The Labour Party should instead be re-educating people into the realisation that there is nothing wrong with the idea of taxation to provide a decent social infrastructure.

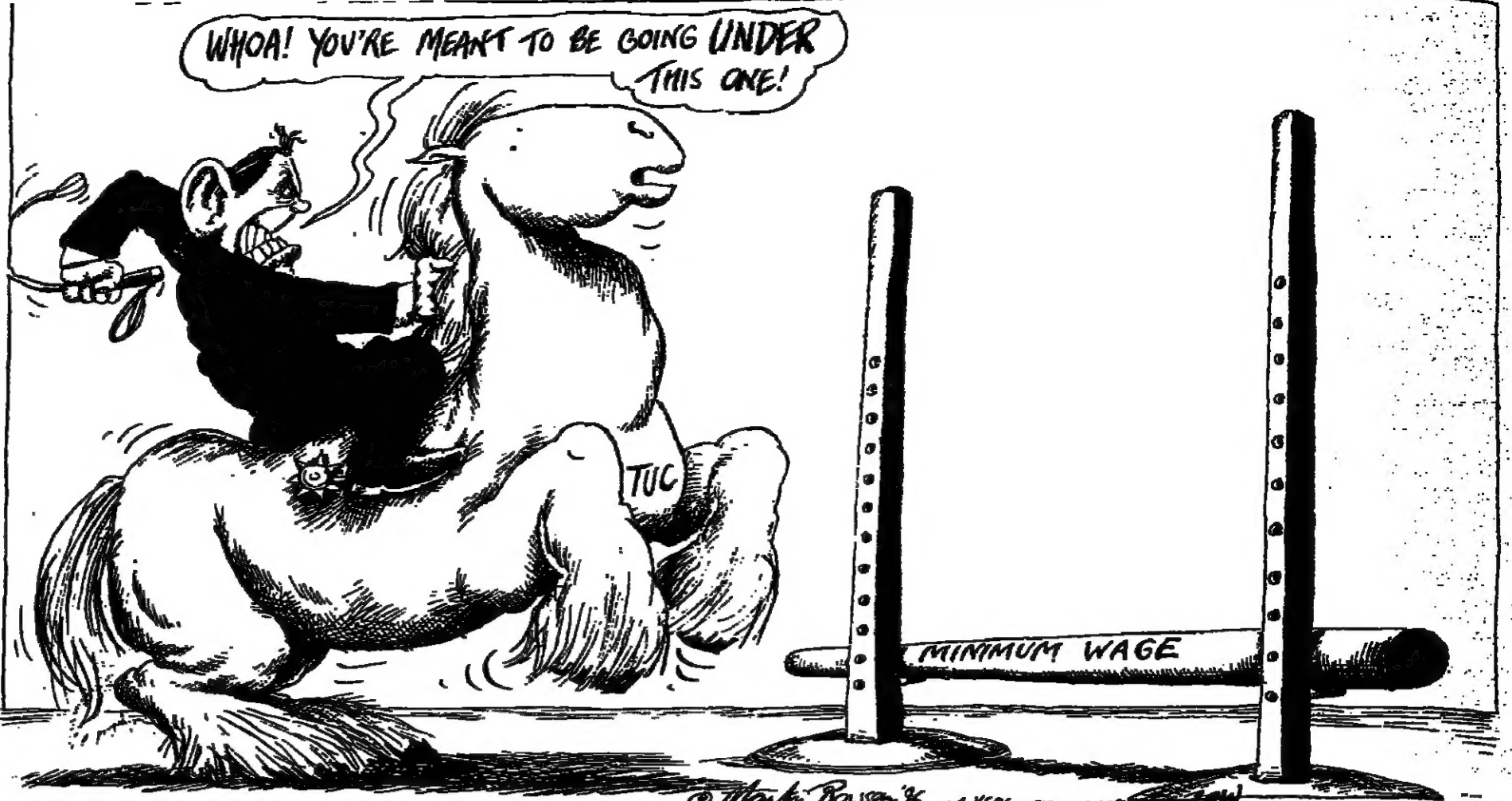
Jim Lawton,
37 Southway,
Horsforth,
Leeds LS18 5RN.

Mitre have-beens

Stop pillorying the Archbishop

Anyone who still grieves publicly about poor syntax cannot be all bad. Someone needs to speak up for Robert Runcie, former Archbishop of Canterbury, who is under fire for a catalogue of sins: refusing to take "sexual sheenigans" at a theological college seriously (Observer); keeping his doubts about the "arranged" marriage between the Prince and Princess of Wales private (Sunday Times); and believing that "with treatment" homosexuals could marry and have children (The Times). Lord Runcie was accustomed to controversy in his Canterbury days but he could not be blunter about a new biography now being serialised: "I have done my best to die before this book is published." He is upset that his "burblings" into a tape-recorder for background have ended up in print.

Lord Runcie made the mistake of reaching a gentleman's agreement with his new biographer, Humphrey Carpenter, in an era when gentlemen need legal contracts. Lord Runcie's main sin is naivete. His biographer admits Runcie never asked for a right of veto: "if he had asked for it, I would have said yes. But he didn't." Or he didn't until it was too late. Runcie should relax. His reputation will survive one more biography. His courage — Military Cross and refusal to follow Margaret Thatcher's instructions for the Falklands memorial service — will not be forgotten. He served in the war with Willie Whitelaw. They were both amused by their ultimate careers. Perhaps if Runcie had ended up Deputy Prime Minister and Whitelaw Archbishop, Britain would have been a better place.



Letters to the Editor

Labour is in business

NEW LABOUR'S ability to talk tough (Leader, September 5) seems to be confined to insulting its old loyalists. When it talks to its new friends in "business" it refrains from telling them what they do not want to hear, but need to.

Such as: that investment in industry needs to be for the long-term; that short-term, unrealistically high rates of return on investment are what has crippled industry; that industrial, rather than purely financial goals are essential for real growth; that long-term partnerships between banks and industry on the German and Japanese models need to be forged; that, in short, capitalism needs to be reformed.

Mike Ellwood,
20 Morton Close,
Abingdon,
Oxon OX14 3KL.

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No new line on crime

CHARLES Leadbeater's plans to bring crime prevention and punishment into local communities (Get fear off the streets, September 6), are interesting, if not particularly novel.

However, there is a fundamental problem with advocating that "communities" must learn to police themselves more effectively. Not all communities experience the same crime problems and communities differ widely in their ability to organise and sustain informal control mechanisms.

The prerequisite for community organisation is an already organised community; while that for crime prevention is an area not already subject to significant crime.

It is all very well to draw upon the experience of Japan but Leadbeater fails to acknowledge the central fact that Japan's recent history has generally been one of low unemployment rates, low levels of poverty (particularly among children), coupled with less extreme relative deprivation.

Given the social polarisation and geographic concentration of poverty and wealth

in contemporary Britain, there are dangers that the politics of community could become a by-word for social exclusion. Shifting responsibility, and hence blame for failure to prevent crime onto the public may simply mean that those who can afford to will retreat behind gated communities while those who cannot will be forced to live in increasingly dangerous places, as crime is displaced onto the least powerful sections of society.

Adam Crawford,
Centre for Criminal Justice Studies,
University of Leeds,
Leeds LS2 9JT.

WE ALREADY have a system in which the probation service has under its supervision about three times the number of people in prison.

Neighbourhood policing already exists as an extension of the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes yet such schemes have grown from one, in 1982, to over 100,000 today during which time recorded crime has doubled.

Today's extensive fear of crime is not properly

addressed by plans which are aimed at what to do with offenders who are caught, because so few are caught. The Home Office's British Crime Surveys have shown that only about 3 per cent of crime is brought to a caution or conviction by a court.

Less than one per cent of crime now results in a custodial sentence, so however good a scheme to replace imprisonment with community sentencing is, it will not affect endemic crime.

(Dr) Gary Slapper,
The Law School,
Staffordshire University,
College Road,
Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2DE.

CHARLES Leadbeater's article is really an argument for more creative authoritarianism. Shackling a teenager to her mother to prevent reoffending is presented as an enlightened alternative to prison.

For whom?

Can I suggest Leadbeater includes reintroducing the stocks and perhaps ducking as particularly cheap methods of social control?

Sara Hinchliffe,
Brighton.

THE then Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, clearly indicated to Mr M'Bow in his notice of withdrawal from Unesco that it was not a permanent step. Once specified reforms were secured, the membership would be renewed.

By February 1993, Unesco had tackled its policy, budgetary and management sufficiently for Douglas Hurd, who was then the Foreign Secretary, to tell four Conservative members of our committee that there was now a strong case for the UK to resume its membership.

But it seems that by July 1992, the Government had made up its mind not to rejoin and declared that it could not find the necessary £11million a year.

Rashid Kareh,
Secretary, United Nations Association Working Committee on Unesco,
3 Whitehall Court,
London SW1A 2EL.

WE now hear publicly from the Labour and Liberal Democrats, what their commitments will be? Howard Kensett,
UNA, Eastbourne,
34 Desmond Road,
Eastbourne,
East Sussex BN22 7LF.

Why Britain still boycotts the new, improved Unesco

PETER PRESTON rightly pours scorn on the British Government's unjustifiable failure to rejoin Unesco (No fatted calf for the prodigal Unesco, September 6) and on its pathetic dependence on the twists and turns of US policy — nicknamed "poodleism" by British diplomats.

Most of the British and US press did indeed thoroughly approve of withdrawal 11 years ago, swallowing, with few questions asked, the lies and exaggerations about Unesco put about by the right-wing US Heritage Foundation and its Tory supporters.

They also largely ignored the vigorous campaign which (until withdrawal) Britain and her EC and Commonwealth supporters had run to get reforms through and to attenuate the New World Information Order.

John Gordon,
(Last Permanent British Representative to Unesco),
66 Hornsey Lane,
London N6 5LU.

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UNA, Eastbourne,
34 Desmond Road,
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East Sussex BN22 7LF.

A retort or two

MATTHEW BANNISTER'S comment that "The huge success of the BBC Radio Collection audio tapes show that children are keen listeners... but that they listen at their own convenience" (Letters, September 6) is ingenious.

The fact that parents have to resort to commercial means to enable their children to hear BBC children's radio surely highlights the very problem. If we applied his argument to adults, then he'd be selling Radio 3, 4 and 5 on audio tapes too!

Richard Guassardo,
9 Cambridge Road West,
London SW20 0SQ.

GIVEN that the proletariat values of football hardly fit with New Labour (Blues fans cheer Labour supporter, September 7) do I take it that Matthew Harding's donation to Labour will be followed by Chelsea banning cloth caps and jeans at Stamford Bridge?

Joseph Lane,
355 Kennington Lane,
London SE11.

Greens hunting for cash

CATHERINE Bennett's article on animal welfare (Policy that's neither fish nor fowl, September 4) brought home to me how narrow the Political Animal Lobby's focus appears to be. They have donated such a large sum to Labour in the hope that fox hunting will be banned. This is a tiny proportion of animal suffering compared to the horrific conditions that almost all mass-produced meat animals endure in our industrial farming system. PAL should concentrate some of their

wealth on raising this far more fundamental issue. Only the Green Party is prepared to discuss industrial farming and its consequences. Perhaps PAL should bug us a few quid?

Paul Anderson,
East Midlands Green Party,
c/o 68 Peversill Road,
Beeston,
Nottingham NG9 2HU.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear.

A Country Diary

CLEY, NORFOLK: It is possibly the commonest reptile in Britain. Old range maps usually suggest a continuous presence from Dover to the Outer Hebrides and although its distribution is now more patchy than this, it certainly occurs in the heart of London, while locally friends ring to tell me they have found them even in their garden. So why I had never seen one after 30 years of lifting stones and searching under bits of corrugated iron is a complete mystery. But, at last, the quest has come to an end. We had been rummaging amongst the concrete blocks and scrap metal strewn around a sunny patch of gorse heath. Under one, instead of the ants' nest we were looking for, was a glistening coil with a broad gold stripe down the back. It was a slow worm and, before giving it a gentle nudge so that it would bring its head into view, I have to confess to a brief struggle with the nation's subconscious and culturally ingrained horror of the serpent. My hesitation caused me acute if undetected embarrassment, not just because I knew rationally the species has far less capacity for harm than our daughter's wooden snake. Even worse was my recollection of a magazine article which depicted one of these creatures lovingly cradled in the hands of a four-year-old girl. Finally I triumphed, the dark-sided body feeling exquisitely smooth and surprisingly hard to the touch. Under this momentous occasion I had coiled and performed beautifully. She was a female, about 30-centimetres long and pregnant — her body swollen from behind the head almost to the tail — and she may well have been warming herself to aid the development of her offspring. As the species name suggests, she moved with a benign slowness, and within just a handful of sinuous curves, her forked tongue flickering occasionally, she slipped away.

MARK COCKER

Drowned in a flood of corporate arrogance

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

FOR more years than I hope the editor remembers, an autumn Endpiece has expressed my thanks for the letters — criticism, correction and very occasionally congratulation — which I have received during the previous 12 months. Gratified has always been combined with regret. Guardian readers are such assiduous writers that — even before Labour's rapid response unit was set up — it was not possible to send individually tailored replies to all the suggestions for improvement and redemption which I received.

So, in past September, I made a public, if only sample, apology, for confusing Sondhelm with Bernstein and misspelling the name of the Minister of State at the Home Office. This year — offering only the passing tribute of a sigh — I must concentrate all the space I am allowed on a letter from Mr Vic Cocker, the chief executive of Severn Trent plc. It was written in

response to a column which I wrote a month ago about a lady who could not afford the cost of metered water.

I called the lady Mrs Selwyn, both to preserve her anonymity and in tribute to John (née Selwyn) Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment who, a couple of weeks earlier, had given the House of Commons the impression that no one who did not choose a water meter was forced to have one installed. I wrote to Mr Gummer asking why, if that were true, his namesake-by-soubriquet was forced to pay through the nose for what came through her tap. He has yet to reply. Mr Cocker, on the other hand, was "interested to read" my description of Mrs Selwyn's plight and wanted me to know how Severn Trent responded to her difficulties.

His letter began by reminding me that Mrs Selwyn was not the only customer to suffer from the cost of metered water. Higher charges are also levied on "properties with sprinklers and swimming pools". I have done my best to feel compassion for those unhappy consumers, but hard as I try, I cannot equate the problems of lawns

turning brown in the sun and evaporation disturbing the proper chlorine balance with the horror of not being able to bathe sick children. Nor do I think that the sprinkler and pool fraternity will cut down their consumption. They can afford to pay. Mrs Selwyn cannot. Frankly, I would like to see Severn Trent charge her less.

Mr Cocker would not agree. To him, Mrs Selwyn's bills — about, in his estimation 15 a week — "do not appear to be exceptionally high". I can see why he, on the basis of an annual salary of £185,000 and bonuses which (according to one calculation) more than double that sum, might take that view. But Mrs Selwyn's husband is unemployed and the family lives on income support. I admit that, in one sense, her bills are lower than they ought to be. She needs more water than she can afford to buy and cuts down to pay up. Mr Cocker — in a sentence so patronising that it makes my teeth ache — disagrees again, if only by implication. "I will arrange for someone to visit her house to advise her on ways in which water can

be used more economically without affecting levels of hygiene". He did not even add, "if she wishes". But it is neither the plight of the consumer nor the insensitivity of the chief executive that is the most worrying aspect of this affair. It is the arrogance of Severn Trent — a monopoly supplier of an essential commodity which seems to believe that its decisions have both the force of law and the authority of divine revelation.

The letter is written in the language of the diktat

Clearly, Mr Cocker's professional reputation would be improved if he hired someone who could draft a civilised letter. But that would be an improvement in public relations which was built on a deception. The company writes in the style of an absolute monarch because that is how it sees itself. Unfortunately, it is right — accurate not moral — to do so.

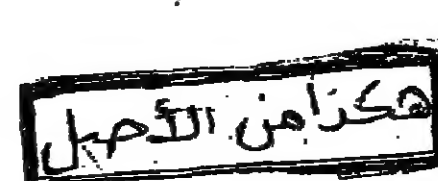
The Water Industry Act, Mr Cocker told me, "required

water companies to find an alternative basis of charge to rateable value". Right. "Our approach to this is to meter all new properties". So what? The not very cunning "our approach" means, when translated into honest English, "the way to make the most profit with the least trouble". Severn Trent could, if it wished, change its "approach". And Mr Cocker should not imagine that, because his company has spoken, his customers will assume that the last word has been said on the subject.

Yorkshire Water — not a universally popular company — originally adopted the same rule. But when they found that some customers could not afford to pay the extra price of metering, they removed the meters and charged a flat rate which more or less reflected the old rateable value. Mr Cocker could help Mrs Selwyn if he chose to do so. But he leaves her high, and too often dry. This idea that once Severn Trent has spoken ex-cathedra no one will question the pronouncement is developed as the letter goes on. "Because of the expense involved in installing meters and setting up

a measured basis of charge we do not allow (my italics) a reversion to a non-metered basis of charging once the decision has been taken". Mr Cocker seems to have forgotten the decision was taken unilaterally by his company and could easily be reversed. So much for consumer sovereignty when there is only one supplier. The Cocker letter is written in the language of the diktat. Its honesty is all that it has to commend it. At least, there is no pretence that the company is open to reason or likely to be moved by compassion.

My dispute with Severn Trent is more than an arcane argument over rival ways of paying domestic water bills, nor is it just an attempt to help a low income family in distress — important though that is. The crucial question that the Cocker letter raises is about where power lies in this country. The most essential of all raw materials is under the control of a company which regards making profit as its only objective and it arrogates to itself the right to distribute that commodity in whatever way it chooses. That is called the corporate state in action.



Paris Diary
Alex Duval-Smith

IF TUTANKHAMUN got wind of the current activity in the Cybèle artefacts shop, he would want to take a turn around his tomb and register a few trademarks. After a build-up lasting some three millennia (including a marked surge in interest in the last 300 years or so), Egyptomania has reached fever pitch in the French capital.

In the Egypt section of Cybèle, shoppers may choose between Amenhotep heads and statuettes of gods, goddesses and sacred beasts. The impetuous may leave with a simple papyrus poster or a scarab pendant. While the statuettes are often in the £200 bracket, the gift shop end of the market represents just the tip of the pyramid. For weeks, the best-seller lists have been crammed with Egyptology essays and fiction spin-offs.

French holiday bookings have taken a dramatic 158 per cent leap since last year. Hundreds of thousands of television viewers were last night expected to watch the four-hour version of Cleopatra.

Anyone who did not spend yesterday evening reading a book, watching the 1993 epic or cruising on the Nile was probably attending one of the overbooked courses in hieroglyphics which have just started at the Institut Kheops. Egyptomania is "l'essence de la rentrée" (the event of the back-to-school and back-to-work season) — a phenomenon so massive that it overshadows the government's woes and helps distract parents from the rising price of satchels.

As if basking in a ray from the sun god Ra, Paris-Match magazine this week makes great play of having refrained from publishing pictures of Princess Stephanie's husband allegedly caucusing with Miss Erotic Belgium. After all, why upset the Monaco royals when you have an exclusive extract from the fourth volume of Christian Jacq's book? Jacq has reinvented Ramses II and created what could turn out, in sales terms, to be the publishing event of the 1990s. He writes at breakneck speed: the fourth volume of his Ramses adventures appears today. The third is still at number two in the fiction list. The fifth is expected in January, just 15 months after the first. Total sales to date: nearly 2,000,000. To the delight of publishers, his tales are laced with a large helping of what other Egyptologists claim to be fantasy. Cue: a "publishing war", with the resulting effect on consumers that paperback book covers are leaping at them from the shelves.

THE Louvre has responded to the hype with a sense of history: the Egyptology wing is closed for refurbishment until the end of the year. Egypt has always been popular — the museum's "Egyptomania" exhibition in 1994 attracted a record 205,000 visitors, said a spokeswoman. But she admitted that while Ancient Egypt appeals to people of all ages and from all walks of life, there has been an increase in interest, and fans of the era do not behave like ordinary visitors.

"We began organising Egyptology seminars in 1989 and we realised soon that we would need a larger venue. Now the talks take place in the main auditorium, which seats 420 people. Those who come are passionate to the point of being irrational. If they turn up and the seminar is full, they refuse to be turned away," said Patricia Mounier.

In 1822, Jean-François Champollion became the first man to decipher hieroglyphics since before Jesus Christ. It was his influence that led to the creation of the Louvre's Egyptology department. One very visible spin-off is the obelisk which was later placed in Place de la Concorde.

But it is another architectural landmark which provides the key. The Louvre Pyramid is probably the most popular of all buildings commissioned by François Mitterrand — aka "le Sphinx". The former president, who died in January, was known to love Upper Egypt and, amid much publicity, spent his last Christmas there.

FRONT THE TOP YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE FRANCE'S FUNNING. EAST EXCHANGE TOWER.

Dangers in this drive for food profits

Commentary

John Gray

BY CHRISTMAS most of the processed foods we buy in supermarkets will contain genetically altered.

In several parts of the world research is being undertaken on transplantation to humans from genetically manipulated animals. Many of the detergents, sprays and pesticides that we use in our homes and gardens contain synthetic chemicals that, according to some scientists, can disrupt human hormonal balance and may be implicated in the decline of male fertility. In these and innumerable other ways scientific and technological advances are being used to remodel the natural world to suit human needs. In using science in these ways, we are creating for ourselves an environment that has never before existed, and whose dangers

are incalculable. Governments, and some scientists, tell us that it is to science that we turn for an assessment of the risks we are running, and how to limit them.

The history of the crisis surrounding BSE ("mad cow disease") should have taught us that such reassurances are not worth much. A few months ago there was much talk by government ministers of turning to "the science" to tell us what the risks are and how best to control them. The clear implication was that if only we rely on "the science" then we will be safe. In part this was a routine political cop-out, an alibi for avoidable errors of policy on the part of a government that ceased to be trusted some time ago. At the same time, this kind of public discourse reflects a cardinal fact of life in late modern Britain. For most people nowadays science is the only institution that possesses anything akin to authority.

People turn to science for what religions no longer supply — a sense of certainty. Much of the power of science in late modern cultures comes from the fact that, unlike the churches, it operates an effective system of censorship against heretics, and is not rivaled constantly by public schisms. For many today, the

appeal of science is that it seems to offer an escape from the burdens of freedom of thought and individual judgment. In this cultural climate, in which science is used as an antidote against doubt and anxiety, it is hardly surprising that politicians should try to use "the science" to get themselves off the hook.

The certainty which people seek in science is, of course, an illusion. On many of the issues that worry people today there is no scientific consensus. Claims that synthetic chemicals contribute to declining sperm levels are strongly contested. Scientific estimates of the risks of global warming vary widely. No doubt some of the differences among scientists about the nature and magnitude of current environmental risks arise from rivalries among pressure groups and from the power of vested interests.

The real source of scientific uncertainty in many of these matters, however, is the novelty of our present condition. There has been an explosive growth of scientific knowledge about genetics over the past generation; but no one knows what will be the effects of introducing genetically engineered plants or animals into natural environments. A great deal has been learnt about vi-

uses and the immune system since the emergence of Aids; but the consequences of transplanting the organs of pigs into human beings remain unknown. In forging ahead with such experiments we are taking risks — with human health, the wellbeing of other animal species and the environment — about which science can, at present, tell us very little. We need basic scientific research — at present badly underfunded in Britain — to identify emerging dangers to the environment. We are, in effect, turning the planet — and our own everyday lives — into the site of vast unsupervised scientific experiments, whose risks we can know, if at all, only retrospectively. In this unprecedented situation we would be wise to consider adopting a precautionary approach to environmental dangers. We should be willing to forgo promising technological innovations if they carry catastrophic risks, even if current scientific knowledge suggests that the probability of disaster is low. We should put the responsibility on those who manufacture new environmental risks, and thereby shift the initiative to their potential and actual victims.

APPLYING a principle of this sort entails an enormous departure from present practice. It can easily be caricatured as a new form of Luddism. It involves huge changes in industries, such as farming, in which the workers are currently driven by the imperatives of commercial survival. It shifts the assessment of risk from being the exclusive prerogative of scientific expertise to being a matter for the ethical and political judgments of lay people. If it could be made

Suffering at the hands of Howard

JUST when you think you've heard the worst from Howard's Home Office, a new outrage hoves about a neighbour. Jean Ligu, Jean fled to this country from the Ivory Coast, west Africa, in 1994. He is a leading member of the Ivory Coast students' federation (FESCI), which has been banned since 1981. He is well-known to his country's secret police. In 1990, after a peaceful demonstration in a cathedral, he was arrested, beaten and locked in a single room with at least 100 others for three days before being released without charge.

Though the repression eased a little, Jean, who was born in Bete in the south west of the Ivory Coast, became alarmed when a new government took office in 1994 and promptly appointed as minister of security General Ouasserman Koue. In 1970, Koue had led a murderous raid against the Bets people. Jean fled to London and applied for asylum. In the time-honoured tradition of Good Old British Hospitality, he was locked up in a detention centre and fiercely interviewed without any lawyer or representative to help him. Asylum was refused, and he appealed. At one stage last year the interminable appeals procedure had to be adjourned because the interpreter was drunk.

Meanwhile, in the Ivory Coast, the general secretary of FESCI was arrested and detained for two months without trial. Nine other students were also arrested, and, after a long period in prison incommunicado, appeared on television with "apologies" worthy of Stalin's Moscow trials. In May this year Amnesty International declared that all FESCI members were in danger, and warned governments against the "forcible return of any member of FESCI". Even the American State Department reported recently that in the Ivory Coast "serious human rights abuses continued. Members of the security forces carried out extra-judicial killings of criminal suspects and the security forces beat and abused detainees".

None of this seems to have seeped through to the Home Office, which sent civil servants to argue that Jean Ligu should be deported. The case was finally heard by adjudicator Jolyon Grey in May and June this year. Mr Grey concluded that Jean Ligu was frightened of persecution in his own country and that



Paul Foot

his fear was "well founded". So he could stay here. Quick as a flash the Home Office appealed. A Mrs S Roberts of the immigration and nationality directorate in Croydon complained, in the name of the Home Secretary, that "the [adjudicator placed undue weight] on the evidence of two other FESCI members (what would have been her reaction if Mr Grey had not heard evidence from FESCI members?"; and that in the Ivory Coast "there is no coherent government policy aimed at persecuting FESCI members".

This shocking argument goes to the immigration appeals tribunal on Wednesday next week.

I WAS puzzled by a recent headline in the Financial Times: IMPOVERISHED BOOST PROVIDENT FINANCIAL'S COFFERS. Business headlines usually refer to company names, so what was this company called Impoverished? Impoverished Mutual? Impoverished plc? Could this be, perhaps, a pensions company with a sympathetic name like Scottish Widows? It emerged that Impoverished meant, simply, the very poor. But how could the very poor "boost" any "coffers", let alone those of an insurance firm? Simple. By borrowing small amounts of money at exorbitant rates of interest.

Overal Provident Financial had a rotten year. Their insurance turnover was down 25 per cent. But their main division, "home-collected credit", raised pre-tax profits to £43.8m on sales 8 per cent up. "Customers" were up too. One and a quarter million people, so poor that they could not get credit from a bank, had taken out small loans with Provident Financial and had paid them back at interest rates of 56 per cent a year to very persistent "collectors" who called regularly at their front door. As Mr John Ruffeier, Provident Financial's chief executive, perceptively observed: "The growing income inequality in the UK has enlarged this market."

Perhaps the most exhilarating characteristic of the free market is the enthusiasm with which capitalists can make profits out of anything, including the desperate human misery their system creates.

I EXPECT you could name the football team which after four games last season had no points and was bottom of the entire league, but after four games this season was top of the second division. But can you explain how they did it? The team is almost exactly the same. Perhaps I can help. Last season, Plymouth Argyle were recovering from the enforced departure of a world-class goalkeeper who'd had terrible money problems. This season they've got Bruce Grobbelaar.



As the TUC meets, Britain's role in Europe remains a key question for unions. Slow down, urges Bill Morris: a single currency could bring a jobs catastrophe

Jobs on the line

FOR THE past five years, the issue of Britain's relations with Europe has been a spectre haunting the Government, often to the extent of politically paralysing John Major's administration.

To lose one government to divisions over the European Union has been a misfortune. To lose another, however, would be worse than carelessness. That is why Labour's cautious approach to the question of economic and monetary union — including a single European currency — is the right one at the present moment. And it is why the upstart advocacy of the merits of a single currency by some in the trade-union movement is a case of too much, too fast. They are running far ahead

of the Labour Party, the CBI, and, I believe, the opinions of most trade-union members and the country as a whole.

For the members of the Transport & General Workers' Union, and millions more besides, the single currency is not an academic question. If the British government — any government — gets this wrong, they will pay with their jobs and, hence, their homes and their families in all too many cases. Unemployment and its consequences are the greatest fear for our citizens, yet it is an issue too often ignored in the great Euro-debate.

the bankruptcy of thousands of companies and the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs. Unemployment has only fallen since the speculators drove starting out of the ERM.

Very many trade unionists remain to be persuaded that history will not repeat itself if we press ahead with a single European currency. In every country in Europe, public spending cuts are already on the political agenda, with consequences both for jobs and for social equality. Of course, a single currency would bring benefits in terms of reducing transaction costs. But it is not necessary to swallow the eu for British workers to enjoy the benefits of the EU's social dimension, or the advantages of free trade within Europe.

The bottom line for trade unionists must be about protecting the interests of working people, including the right to be a working person. Our agenda cannot be determined by any one political party, nor can we become a sort of labour market sub-committee of the Bank of Europe of the people. The Danish rejection of the original Maastricht Treaty was the first warning that the limit has been reached in terms of popular consent.

There was no referendum in Britain on Maastricht — instead, there was undignified parliamentary manoeuvring. For the sake of our democracy and the future of the EU, that cannot happen again. I will not ask T&G members to put their jobs on the line for a single currency without them having a say in the process.

So let's have the debate. Let's seriously address the jobs issue. And, in the end, let the people decide.

Bill Morris is general secretary of the Transport & General Workers' Union. We invited John Morris of the TUC to debate this issue but our invitation was declined.

The star's the thing

Following rumours of dark deeds at the National Theatre, Lyn Gardner fears for the future of the old-fashioned understudy

THEATRICAL legend thrives on the fantasy of the understudy who gets his or her big break when the star falls sick or falls over dead drunk just as the curtain is about to rise. Many backstage musicals, including 42nd Street, are based on the impossible dream of the shy little hooter, plucked from the chorus line at the 11th hour, who wows the audience and critics (who, of course, just happen to be at hand) and who becomes an overnight sensation.

Unfortunately, in real life stars are seldom born this way. Certainly not at the National Theatre last week, when on Wednesday evening veteran National Theatre actress and understudy Rita Davies took over from Vanessa Redgrave, struck down by a respiratory illness, opposite Paul Scofield, and Eileen Atkins in Richard Eyre's production of John Gabriel Borkman.

By all accounts, Miss Davies played rather well. Certainly there were congratulations all round after the performance, and a bottle of champagne was cracked. Miss Davies went on to perform on Thursday evening too.

due to begin, Ms Davies was told that she would no longer be required to play the role as future performances of the sell-out production would be cancelled until Miss Redgrave was fit enough to return to the stage.

Fiona Walsh, a National Theatre press officer, refused to comment on widespread rumours that the performances had to be cancelled because of the refusal of Paul Scofield — one of the few remaining grand old men of theatre — to perform opposite Miss Davies. She said that the decision to cancel Friday night's performance and the Saturday matinee, which entailed 1,500 people being offered refunds or seats for alternative performances, had been taken by the National Theatre's artistic director Richard Eyre, who is currently in New York rehear-

ing the Broadway opening of David Hare's Skylight. Opinion within the profession was divided this weekend over whether the National had taken the right decision. One actress who has understudied widely said: "If it is true that Scofield would not perform opposite an understudy, it is outrageous. We are professionals too. Understudies are often no less talented than those who are cast in the role. Often it's just a matter of luck."

Certainly there are plenty of examples of actors who have replaced a star and done the job rather better. When Daniel Day-Lewis started seeing his own deceased father join performances of Hamlet at the National Theatre in the late 1980s he was replaced by Ian Charleson, who was far superior in the role. When Charlson himself became ill, it was unknown Jeremy Northam who got the big break and who went on to win an Olivier Award for his performance. Juliet Stevenson, then a bit player at the RSC, got her big

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Emily Kngwarreye

This is my country

WHEN I first saw the paintings of the Aboriginal artist, Kngwarreye, who has died aged 86, I was amazed by the appearance of fields of colour floating on the surface of the canvas. I had been made by a tiny, frail octogenarian lady living in the Utopia community, 250 kilometres north-east of Alice Springs, in one of the remotest parts of Australia.

Kngwarreye has described her paintings as a group encompassing a total vision of her land, her country and its stories. Her early works were dominated by an underlying structure, usually sacred, based on the body designs of her people, the Anmatyerre, as well as topographic references relating to Dreaming sites; over these she worked layers of paint, usually dots, applied by finger, brush or stick.

The lines which Kngwarreye traced could mark the course of the roots of a wild yam plant, the veil of dots covering the surface could represent the leaves and flowers of the yam and the grasses and seeds of her land. Kngwarreye's middle name is the word for the seed of the *amulure* plant — a yam that grows on land belonging to her clan. This plant is significant in the clan's Dreaming stories and song cycles.

As a young woman, Kngwarreye worked on the Utopia cattle station. Like the other Aboriginal people who

worked for the pastoralists, Kngwarreye would have been paid in kind. But unlike most women there, Kngwarreye was a stockwoman. In 1976, the Aboriginal Land Fund Commission acquired the lease for the Utopia community, which formed the Angkara cattle company to run it. Then in 1979, inalienable title to the 1,800 square kilometres of the Utopia lease reverted back to its traditional owners as the result of

A phenomenal achievement — made in only a decade — by an elderly Aboriginal woman

a land claim under the 1976 Aboriginal Land Rights Act. So, since 1977, the Alyawarre and Anmatyerre people have gradually resettled. Kngwarreye was a senior member of a community most of whose prominent artists are women. This is partly due to women advisers and teachers who went to live there in 1976 and introduced batik. The ease of the technique and the communal nature of outdoor batik workshops suited women and children and the gatherings became a forum for rehearsing ceremonial performances and swapping news. Kngwarreye first came

to prominence for her batik work, for which the Utopia community was to become renowned. The linear organic forms covering her silks told stories of her country, and contained symbols of the emu (*angkara*) and bush tomatoes (*akatyerre*). Then, in 1982, the National Gallery of Australia bought one of her batiks.

Her first canvas was painted for Rodney Gooch of the Alice Springs-based and Aboriginal-owned Central Australian Media Association in 1988. He realised the artistic potential of Kngwarreye and her colleagues and observed that while the transition from traditional media and batik to canvas demonstrated a flow-on of Kngwarreye's imagery, many images appeared to be without precedent. The flexibility of the medium was ideally suited to her temperament. The layer upon layer of multi-coloured dots which came to characterise her work would have been impossible with batik.

Her canvases were distinguished by freer, painterly means of expression. In contrast to other artists in the region or within similar contexts, she extended paint's use as an accompaniment to a traditional narrative. The use of abstract imagery is for most desert Aboriginal artists a political strategy to disguise the sacred content of their paintings.

By 1992, Kngwarreye was one of Australia's foremost contemporary artists and producing some of her most remarkable work. It res-



Kngwarreye... the lines of her paintings could be read as the lines of the landscape she lived in

PHOTOGRAPH: PERRY TREWEE

ponded to the moods and seasonal shifts of the country, recording the cycles of regeneration and climatic change, drought, floods and abundance. Most significantly, Kngwarreye's paintings of this period continue to evoke the sensuality of the landscape — the drama of atmospheric changes and contrasts of colour, and the shifting light across the desert hills and valleys and plains.

While the paintings provide us with Kngwarreye's idiosyncratic vision of her

country, they also serve a practical role within that community as the act of their creation has contributed to cultural and environmental renewal.

Early in 1994 came an astounding solo exhibition of her work in Sydney. The lyrical and undulating sea of dots had been abruptly replaced by bold stripes running up and down the surface in an array of colours. This minimalist and abstract style proved to be yet another interpretation of body designs and effectively stamped

Kngwarreye as an artist of international standing. It was this capacity to reinvent her style, palette and composition that caught the attention of the curators for Australia's representation at the 1997 Venice Biennale. Paintings from this body of work, where the stripes evolve into grids and webs, were testimony to her innovation. She was very daring.

Kngwarreye proved that the best contemporary Aboriginal art excels, even by its own standards. Aboriginal art can extend the boundaries

of meaning in non-Aboriginal art movements and stimulate a re-evaluation of the art theory which has excluded, denigrated and then appropriated the practice of Aboriginal artists.

Today, Kngwarreye's works are exhibited globally. And she was showered with honours. It was a phenomenal achievement — achieved in a decade — by an elderly Aboriginal woman, who didn't speak English, from a desert community. Yet the authority and assuredness evident in her work is testimony to a

lifetime of creating images, well before she ever picked up a paintbrush.

What makes her a legendary artist is her presence in the work, her life experience, wit and wisdom, knowledge and authority, and indomitable personality. As Kngwarreye stated when asked to describe her work: "This is my country, this is me".

Hetti Perkins, Aboriginal curator and writer

(Emily) Kngwarreye, artist, born 1910; died September 2, 1996

Leonard Katzman

The man who really shot JR



Katzman with Dallas leads Linda Gray, Victoria Principal

Leonard Katzman has died from a heart attack aged 69, just after completing his television script for *The Dallas Reunion*. He had been writer and producer of the original *Dallas*, and other much-repeated productions from the golden age of genre television. *The Dallas Reunion* is scheduled for screening this autumn, and America is going to be at least as fascinated by what has happened to the Ewings on their ancestral ranch at Southfork as it will be what happens to the Clintons in the White House during the presidential election.

Katzman was executive producer of *Dallas* and wrote more than 100 episodes. He was part of it very early, when it was only a five-part miniseries, first televised in 1978, about two feuding Texas families, one oil-rich, snazzy and mean, one poor, and reasonably reasonable. Variety called that "a limited series with a limited future". But

Katzman and the actual creator of the concept, David Jacobs, believed differently and persuaded the CBS network to pick it up and run with it the following year as the first major prime-time soap opera since *Peyton Place* in 1969. Its popularity lasted for over a decade, declining (along with its imitators) only as the bullish Reagan era which it mirrored came to an end.

Katzman had worked closely with the actor Larry Hagman, who, as JR Ewing, became an international folk hero. Hagman — his stein banded with what one critic called "the feathers of crushed budgerigars" — to denote his deliciously wholehog badness — and the rest of the cast became familiar worldwide. *Dallas* was a dream of what America might be; there must be almost as many newly-affluent houses in the world called Southfork as were named Ponderosa in the decade before. Yet Katzman remained in his tiny studio office, pounding out

scripts on — you've guessed it — a battered typewriter, often at the rate of one a day.

He became known as "the consciousness of *Dallas*" when Jacobs decamped to other series after the first season. With his team of four writers, he loved devising those outrageous plot twists, always staying, of course, within the framework of what he called the essential elements — "power, sex, greed, money".

His sons Frank and Mitchell also wrote and directed, under his guidance. His daughter, Sherri Lynn Retino, who died last year, was an actress with a part in the series.

Perhaps Katzman's greatest coup was the cleverly-hyped *Who Shot JR?*, the most successful cliffhanger in television history, a show watched by more than 27 million viewers in Britain alone. And his most cynical device was to bring back JR's brother Bobby, who had died on screen when ratings dropped. Bobby stepped out of a

shower to declare that everything that had happened since he was last there was a dream. This displayed a casual chutzpah most big-screen entertainment movies would never dare attempt, and won big viewing figures to match its nerve.

Katzman, who came from New York, learned about manipulating an audience in the forties working as an assistant to his uncle, Sam Katzman, a successful Hollywood producer of B-movies and a force behind such early television series as *Batman* and *Superman*. Then he served his time, 20 years, working as a writer, director and producer of television programmes.

Although you might presume that he shared the same inspirations as Aaron Spelling, creator of glamour-purveying series from *Charlie's Angels* to *Savannah* — that is the free-spending world of the shopping mall, of revolving credit and of the big teased hair — Katzman's genre background for *Dallas* was in fact derived from the Western. It was important that Southfork was a ranch.

His writing career had first been successful with adult cowboy stories, which were rooted in reality or what passes for it in that genre. He

began on the stalwart classic, *Guns, Smokey*, in the 1950s, and he also produced it, winning the Western Heritage Award for a block of episodes. In the 1960s, he moved to *The Wild, Wild West Show*. He did diversity, moving on to produce *Hourly Five-O*, a series about policemen on the tracks of exotic villains, the waving palms and tan-vinyl faces of which you may still meet every night being repeated somewhere around the globe.

But *Dallas*, set against a landscape of dust-raising cattle driven by men in big hats, treating wives and mistresses as trophies and prone to bouts of fearful sentimentality in the company of their mothers, is clearly descended from a Western lineage. (The expansive title music is also a great giveaway.) When it ended in 1981, Katzman's next production was a series, *Walker, Texas Ranger*. He himself was never one to theorise about the popular entertainment, asked to account for the international appeal of *Dallas*, he replied: "Beats me".

Leonard Katzman is survived by his wife LaRue.

Hilary Kingsley

Leonard Katzman, television producer, born September 2, 1927; died September 5, 1996

Birthdays

Pauline Baynes, designer and book illustrator, 74; Frank Clark, football manager, 53; Alice Thomas Ellis, writer, 64; Neil Faltbrother, cricketer, 35; Prof Alexander Florence, dean of London University's School of Pharmacy, 56; Eric Forth MP, minister of state for Education, 52; Sir John Gorton CH, statesman, former prime minister of Australia, 85; Hugh Grant, actor, 36; Robin Hyman, publisher, 65; Elvin Jones, jazz drummer, 68; Bryant Marriott, controller, Special Duties (that's the official title), BBC Radio, 60; Zbigniew Namysłowski, jazz musician and composer, 57; The Rev Prof Norman Porteous, theologian and linguist, 88; Cliff Robertson, actor, 71; James Sabben-Clare, educationalist, 53; Richard Sharpe, rugby footballer, 58; Countess Spencer, 67; Mavis Steale, bowler, 68; Dave Stewart, rock singer and producer, 44; Dr Shirley Summerskill, former Labour MP, 65; Chaim Topol, Israeli actor and singer, 61; Margaret Tyack, actress, 66; Edward Upward, Marxist writer, 88; Ed Victor, literary agent, 57.

Monsignor Adriano Hypólito

Bishop of the persecuted poor

FOR his courageous defence of the poor and outspoken criticism of the military dictatorship which ran Brazil for more than two decades, Monsignor Adriano Hypólito, bishop emeritus of Nova Iguaçu, who has died aged 78, was admired across Latin America.

Hypólito was a liberation theologian who addressed the physical needs of the poor of his diocese as well as ministering to their souls. During the dictatorship years between 1964-88, his defence of

the oppressed resulted in repeated clashes with the right-wing military who, having tried to discredit the "red bishop", sought to have him removed and finally killed.

When the authorities banned publication of a book written by one of his friends, Hypólito, a brilliant linguist, translated it into German and sent it to Germany for publication. Thanks to the book, the world learned of the Brazilian death squad charged with eliminating opponents of the government.

This was also the reason why, in 1976, the Department of Political and Social Order (DOPS) plotted to kill Hypólito. Operating as the "Brazilian Anti-Communist Alliance", a DOPS unit kidnapped Hypólito, beat him, stripped him naked, tied him up and sprayed him with red paint. He was then forced to swallow an entire bottle of rum and abandoned on a lonely road; he was not found until the next day. His car, which had been parked near the Brazilian Bishops' Confer-

ence premises, was blown up.

Hypólito recuperated from his ordeal and continued to work, although those who knew him well maintained that he never fully recovered. Despite threats that other "communist" bishops would receive the same treatment, Hypólito continued to work for his parishioners, particularly those who lived in the Baixada Fluminense, a notorious slum district outside Rio de Janeiro.

Hypólito was born in Brazil's north eastern province of



Hypólito... a fighting bishop, a scholar and gifted poet

Sergipe and ordained a priest at the age of 22. After serving as auxiliary Bishop in São Salvador da Bahia and attending the Vatican II council as a conciliar father, he was appointed Bishop of Nova

Iguaçu in 1966. His liberation theology brought him into conflict with the conservative Catholic hierarchy. Criticisms of the way he ran his diocese and obstructions from his archbishop did not de-

flect him from his beliefs and commitment to social justice. He was also admired as a scholar, a gifted poet and an accomplished musician and composer. He was bishop who handled millions of pounds but lived very simply as a humble Franciscan.

When Hypólito tendered his resignation in 1983, none of the candidates he put forward as a successor was deemed acceptable by his superiors. On his retirement a year later, he was replaced by a conservative, an appointment that caused him great bitterness in his final years.

Francis Pinto Phelan

Monsignor Adriano Mandarino Hypólito, priest, born January 16, 1918; died August 10, 1996

Death Notices

PONTON Edward John suddenly on 28th August, Edward John Ponton aged 41. Dear husband of Catherine Louise nee Barber, devoted father of Sam and Daniel. Cremation 10th September 1996. Hill Farm, Gramston, Selby Road E7 at 1.00pm, afterwards at the Old Spotted Dog, Lion Lane E7. Family flowers only. Donations to E.C.s memory to the Elmham School Fund.

In Memoriam

O'GRADY, Jim who will always be missed by his family and friends.

Anniversaries

BUTCHER, to my wonderful husband Freddie, all my love on our first anniversary, forever yours, Jenny 2000X. To place your announcement telephone 0171 712 4567. Fax 0171 712 4762.

Jackdaw



Totally useless

CRANBERRIES are sorted for ripeness by bouncing them: a fully ripened cranberry can be dribbled like a ball.

Cinderella's slippers were originally made out of fur. The story was changed in the 1600s by a translator.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur. All the swans in England belong to the Queen.

In the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy's last name is Gail. It is on the letterbox.

A pig's orgasm lasts for 30 minutes. More people are killed annually by donkeys than die in air crashes.

Duelling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.

The very first bomb dropped by the Allies on Berlin during the second world war killed the only elephant in the zoo.

"Speak of the devil" is short for "Speak of the devil and he shall come". It was believed that if you spoke about the Devil, it would attract his attention. That's why when you are talking about someone and they show up people say "Speak of the Devil".

A cat has 32 muscles in an ear.

Fu (as in Kung Fu) means mindless violence.

The naval rank of "admiral" is derived from the Arabic phrase "amir al bahr", which means "lord of the sea".

Spiral staircases in medieval castles run clockwise. This is because all knights used to be right-handed. When the intruding army climbed the stairs they would not be able to use their right hands, which were holding swords, because of the difficulties in climbing the stairs. Left-handed knights would have no trouble — but left-handed

people could never become knights because it was assumed they were the descendants of the devil.

Everything you didn't want to know at www.island.stanford.edu/~jenki/usesless.html

Bulls-eye

ONLY a few weeks ago, a Highland bullock called Hamish was in line for culling under BSE crisis measures. But not only is he still very much alive, he is now on the verge of becoming the first four-legged Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in Scotland. Hamish was helping to promote the work of Victorian cattle painter, Joseph Donovan Adam, at Stirling's Smith Art Gallery and Museum when news of his impending demise was leaked.

The Gallery responded by making him external relations officer, and he repaid their continued hospitality by unearthing a Victorian clay pipe in his paddock. It is this discovery which may win Hamish his fellowship and a place in the archaeological

record books. However, it must first find two fellows who are willing to vouch for Hamish's interest in Scottish history and artefacts. If this membership is then approved by a vote of all Fellows, the friendly bullock's full name will read Hamish McKye Donovan FSA (Scott). And, in true antiquarian style, he is now likely to live to a ripe old age.

Happy news for Hamish, reported in the Meat Trades Journal.

Slobbavitch's

Slobbing is good for you. An average 19 million sports related injuries are reported every year in England and Wales alone. Yet it is now likely to live to a ripe old age.

Getting dressed for sport can be potentially lethal. One chap got a blood clot from wearing shorts that were too tight.

Scientific evidence suggests that prolonged, strenuous training can impair the immune system, reducing the body's ability to fight infection. Athletes fall ill more often than couch potatoes. So lie back and enjoy yourself.

Bungee jumping has produced a new sort of back and neck strain. Mountaineering and air sports, such as hanggliding, each kill at least 16 people per year. In Japan, staking is the greatest source of sport-related death and impact injury. A Harvard Medical School doctor even reported 11 cases of strangulation of skiers wearing long scarves.

Why women love. Slobbs are far too worried about selecting the correct blend of beers and potato snacks at the office to notice if the girlfriend is making eyes at the love god behind the counter.

2. She can let him loose in the bathroom. No danger that he's going to squeeze out the last drop of the Brazil Nut Conditioner or even her precious Purifying Mask Aux Plantex.

3. He looks so bad that she'll always look good by his side. He never irons his shirts or cleans his shoes.

4. He'll never force her to get out of the bed at the weekend. What chance does a visit to the gym stand in the competition for a morning's entertainment compared to snuggling up with

the News of the Screws, a pot of a handful of vitamin C and the remains of last night's cake?

5. He thinks take-away food is the one true food.

Slob cuisine
Marks & Spencer's Cottage pie meal. Cooking time: 6 minutes.

Asia Chicken Koruma and Rice. Cooking time: 4 minutes.

Bird's Eye Menu Master. Roast Beef Platter. Cooking time: 8 minutes.

Tesco Chinese Chicken. Cooking time: 8 minutes.

Essential slob's accessories: Turtle — the perfect aloft pet. It spends half the year asleep, eats carpet and never tries to shag your leg.

Lap-top computer. Remote-control — research has shown that before the invention of the remote control, every adult trudge three pointless miles a week between the telly and the comfy chair. Television — it is an established fact that a man alone with his television contributes to the stability and richness of life, whereas children brought up without TV all become murderers. Microwave oven. How to be the Perfect Slob in FHM.

Sofa so good

AN ISRAELI furniture manufacturer says comfort and marathon prayer sessions in synagogues during the forthcoming High Holy days need no longer be mutually exclusive. Businessman Meir Inber unveiled cushioned

orthopaedic seats that will replace the standard wooden pews in several synagogues in Jerusalem before Rosh Hashanah. A company survey indicated that devout Jews spend an average of 100 hours in synagogues during the annual festival period that begins next week and ends 23 days later.

No more pains in the backside. Jewish Chronicle.

Hair tied

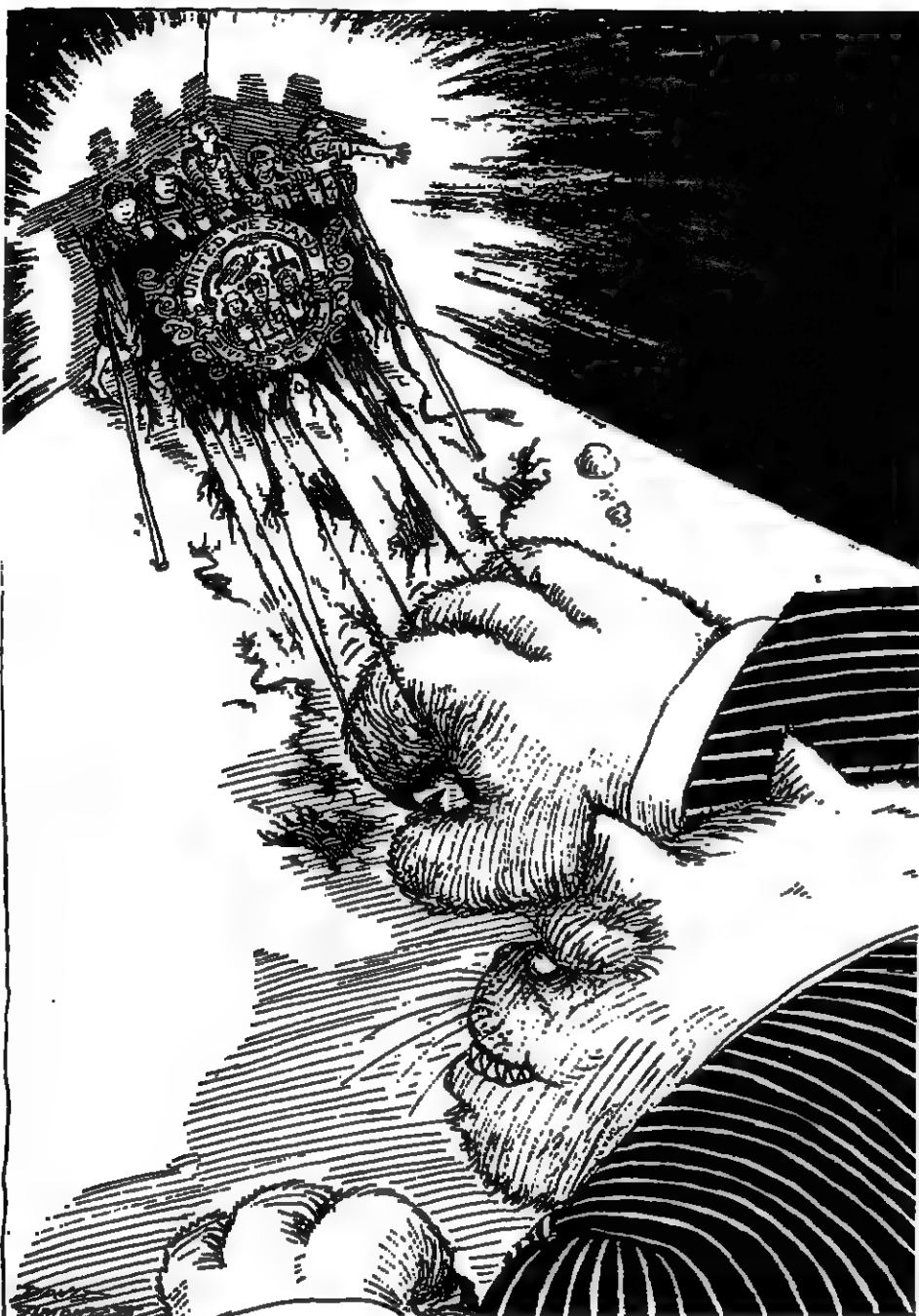
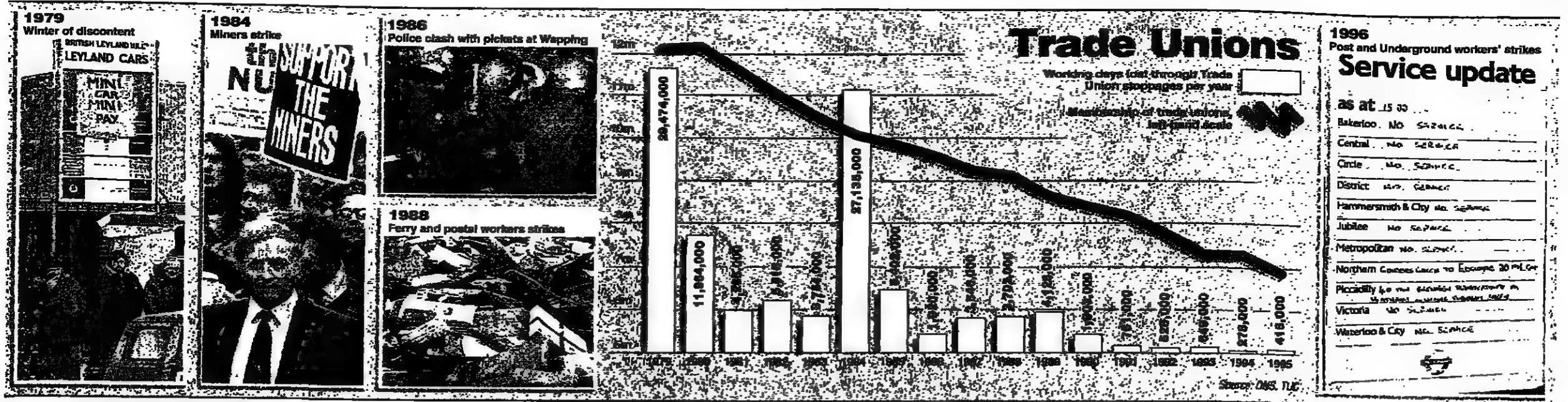
BAD HAIR DAY! You're a virgin, you've just given birth and now three kings have shown up. Find out the happy ending at a church near you. The church's latest advertising campaign that has got bishops and an archbishop all in knots even before its launch. Their aim was to make a big splash. Church Times.

Jackdaws want jewels. E-mail jackdaws@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaws, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

مكازم التحصيل

ELECTION BATTLEGROUND/Continuing our series, Guardian reporters examine the effects of the decline in union power but conclude that bosses, not workers, are now villains of the 1990s



Class war at its crudest brings no benefit despite Tory claims



Larry Elliott

THOSE of us who dislike Manchester United, winning everything in football all the time should take some lessons from the way the Government has handled the unions these past 18 years.

The first thing to do is insist that United are not allowed any foreign players; then that a member of the Manchester City fan club should referee their games. So, it will continue, season by season, until United have to play both halves up a one-in-four slope at a redesigned Old Trafford and pay a fine every time they commit a foul.

After 10 years, when the fans have lost heart, those of us who support other clubs can suggest United have no future as a team but might prosper if they sell replica kits.

This process will be familiar to trade unions, and it's easy to see why it has met with such thunderous applause on the right. The attack on the trade unions — through deflationary economics, policies and relentless legislation — has been class warfare at its crudest. Why

bits of the left should also be parroting such reactionary twaddle is more puzzling.

The fact is that the shackling of the unions is up there with the Falklands War as one of the achievements of four terms of Conservative government. Indeed, it was where Mrs Thatcher's thirst for a return to Victorian values was fully slaked.

Ministers argue that the tough approach has worked, because turning the clock back has improved the climate of industrial relations, boosted productivity, and brought about a sea change in pay bargaining.

The right insists breaking the power of organised labour has been good for workers as well, if they would but admit it. Unions act more responsibly, are more in touch with what their members want. They should give up the industrial struggle and flog motor insurance instead.

However, unions appear to be a one-off case when it comes to the implementation of Victorian values. No minister has yet suggested a return to 19th century surgery, dentistry or sanitation. Nor has any member of the Government been brave enough to claim that it would boost competitiveness to deprive women of the vote.

Yet a master-servant approach to industrial relations is deemed a good thing, even if it means employers can flout health and safety regulations and sack staff with impunity to prevent them qualifying for statutory employment rights.

Even such bastions of laissez-faire thinking as the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development now agree that this is not the way forward, given that the West is never going to compete in terms of wage costs with south Asia or eastern Europe.

The evidence that the campaign waged against the unions has delivered the economic benefits claimed is tenuous. The argument is that unions distort supply and demand in the labour market by pushing up wages and reducing investment. This reduces demand for labour.

Nice theory, but after 18 years we still seem to be waiting for the higher investment and the lower unemployment.

Whereas an individual firm can boost its profits from deunionisation and holding down wages, the benefits to the economy at an aggregate level are more difficult to discern. The side-effects of the decline in union influence have been widening income inequalities, rising poverty and job insecurity, which have had detrimental effects on growth, the balance of payments and public finances.

Apologists for the new right would argue that this attack

on labour is warranted, because it should lead to a fall in the share of national income taken by wages, and a rise in the share for investment. The story of the past 18 years is quite different.

Wages as a share of GDP have fallen, but all this has meant is that dividends have gone through the roof.

The Government seems proud of this, impervious to the notion that the future for Britain is a deontidly paid, highly productive, secure workforce. But plans for further curbs on unions would be a bridge too far.

Back in the 1970s, union bosses were the satirists' target; no longer. If popular culture says anything about the political mood, the public thinks the villains are now the bosses. Union membership may have fallen to below eight million, but the TUC believes there is a hidden pool of potential recruits — perhaps several million — reluctant to join for fear of reprisals.

Nor is it true that the days of industrial action are over. The number of days lost through strikes has fallen sharply over the past 18 years (as the graphic shows), but in the first half of this year, there were six votes in 81 per cent of ballots. Unions have been using the votes to good effect. Following a successful ballot, two out of three disputes were settled without recourse to industrial action.

So, where now? The trend in industry during the 1990s has been for firms to concentrate on their core business —

unions should do the same. If they don't deliver on bread and butter issues — pay and working conditions — will members think it likely they can beat Direct Line when it comes to car insurance?

Two things will help in this respect. Inflation is weak, which should allow monetary policy to be expansionary — good for employment and union recruitment.

The other factor is the likelihood of a Labour government. Tony Blair has said that there will be no favours to the unions, but in power he will need the unions as much as they need him. The TUC believes it can expect a minimum wage, the Social Charter, the right to recognition, and protection against dismissal during a legal dispute.

It would like more, like instant employment protection against unfair dismissal and greater freedom to prosecute disputes against employers that divide themselves up to prevent secondary action, but John Monks, TUC general secretary says Labour's four commitments should not be underestimated.

Let's hope so. Some on the left think unions are no longer needed these days but they are fuzzy about what the benefits are to workers. Simple. In the days the boss would say "You're fired", you would fetch the shop steward. In the de-unionised "us-and-us boss" world of the future the boss says: "I understand your pain but you're fired all the same".

Indicators

TODAY — JPI Balance of payments (July), UK Producer prices, UK Construction new orders (July).

TOMORROW — UK Current account balance (Q1).

WEDNESDAY — UK Unemployment figures, UK Average earnings (July).

THURSDAY — GER Budget negotiations, UK Producer price index, UK Retail prices, FR Current account (June), FR Retail sales, FR Consumer price index, UK Retail sales, FR Consumer prices.

Source: *Statman Sachs International*.

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 1.6125	France 7.7060	Italy 2.321	Singapore 2.15
Austria 15.08	Germany 2.2575	Malta 0.5416	South Africa 6.66
Belgium 46.44	Greece 363.50	Netherlands 2.5340	Spain 190.60
Canada 2.10	Hong Kong 11.81	New Zealand 2.1960	Sweden 10.25
Cyprus 0.6670	India 58.03	Norway 9.78	Switzerland 1.8280
Denmark 8.75	Ireland 0.6870	Portugal 232.50	Turkey 131.235
Finland 6.8975	Israel 4.93	Saudi Arabia 5.8470	US 1.5325

Supplied by *Herstatt Bank* (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel) at a close of business on Friday

Where seven drew the line

Sarah Ryle meets fenced-in pickets

THE seven-strong vigil at Hyde Park Corner is unlikely to lead to the kind of drama seen at Orgreave during the miners' strike in 1984, or two years later at Wapping when the print unions took on Rupert Murdoch and lost.

The days when unions would pull out an entire workforce over one sacking, let alone the 56 in this case, are long gone.

Unison, which represents the former domestic assistants at Hillingdon Hospital, has been running a year-long campaign against what it claimed were the heavy-handed management tactics of the private contractors which took over support services and sacked the workers.

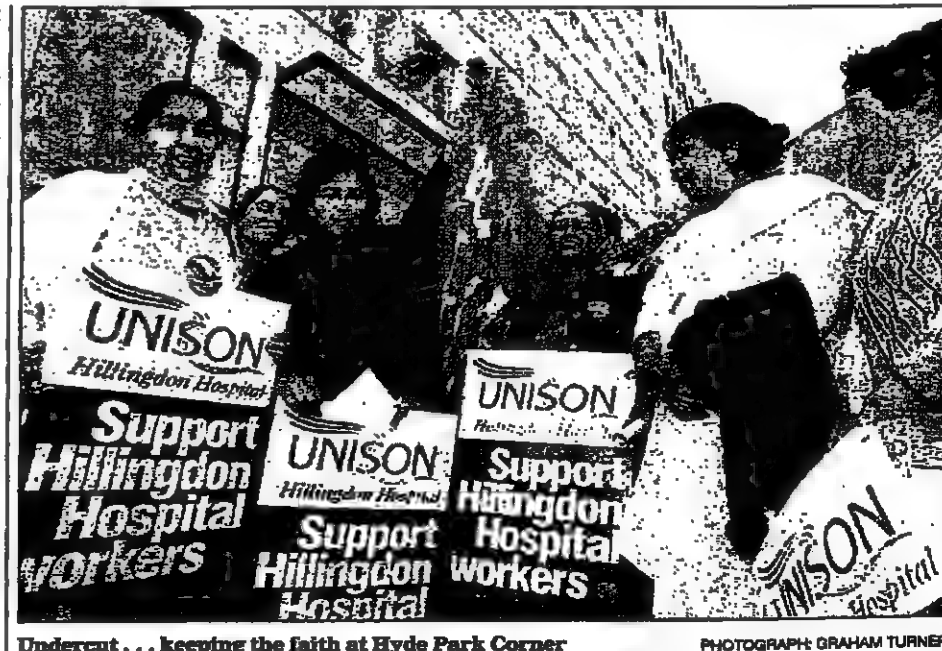
Of the 56 sacked on October 31 last year by Pail Mall, 54 were women and almost all were Asian. They refused to sign new contracts because it meant agreeing to a pay cut. Support service workers in other units were offered more money, signed the deal and remained with the hospital.

A year later, the women are still in official dispute. Because this, none has sought other jobs — and none has received unemployment benefit, because they are deemed to have made themselves unavailable for work. Last week they stood for six hours each day outside the headquarters of Pail Mall's parent company, Davis Service Group.

The vigil had the flavour of a token gesture. Traffic and pedestrians passed by with only the occasional, mildly interested glance from drivers waiting at the lights.

Malkat Bilku, the shop steward who had 25 years of service at Hillingdon, said she was used to uncomfortable picketing. When the dispute started in November, she recalled, the picket stationed outside Hillingdon Hospital was something to be reckoned with. "There were three women arrested. There were 25 people every day and they sent about 200 policemen."

They recognise that even their union, which has 1.3 million members, does not



Undercut... Keeping the faith at Hyde Park Corner PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Pail Mall has been more akin to smart-bomb techniques than the old blitzkrieg approach which would have seen the entire work force at Hillingdon brought out to support their comrades. It has dubbed the dispute "the unacceptable face of contracting", highlighting a system which left workers vulnerable by handing out service work piecemeal.

The union has opted for national newspaper advertisements about Pail Mall and targeted other NHS trusts which may have had tenders from the company. Unison's boast is that Pail Mall has won only one hospital contract since the campaign started, and that was only with a provision that workers would receive the same pay as they had before.

Local workers who last week deferred a further decision on strike action to make sure the membership was still behind the executive, Unison must tread carefully.

The dispute went to Acas, the arbitration service, and Davis Service Group said a settlement was negotiated which the union and Acas recommended to the workers.

"There is not much more we can do," said John Ivey, a spokesman for the group. "The workers are seeking their jobs back and that is impossible. They were properly dismissed and given proper notice, and life has moved on since then. The union still supports them which, of course, it has to."

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Worm's eye

Dan Atkinson

THERE is a scene in the Central TV drama *Second Time Around* in which the police tell a man suspected for years of having murdered a young girl that he is in the clear. They have a new suspect. The reaction of the long-suffering ex-man in the frame is to laugh bitterly and explain why the new suspect can no more be

guilty than he was. "Can't you people get anything right?"

Similar despair is the consequence of exposure to our new user-friendly, business-like trade-union spokespeople; whether they be holding forth on television or making guest appearances in the newspapers to lament the Government's short-sightedness in rejecting the single currency, the social chapter, etc etc.

As with the little girl on the Tube train observing a group of nuns: "mummy, why've those men got

funny hats on?", the TU boys are handicapped by a wonky analysis of fundamentals. About a decade ago (i.e. about 10 years after everybody else) the brothers twigged that they had become deeply unpopular. Their diagnosis of this unpopularity was and is entirely wrong-headed.

As a result, the union brass is convinced its hedge-fund status in the old days was all down to its opposition to sound money, new technology and things European. None of the true causes — picketing hospitals, hospitalising non-

strikers, protection-racketing in general — features on the list.

So, armed with a faulty historical analysis, the unions march forward to a hopelessly-wrong list of aspects of trade unionism that may switch off voters. Prominent are things like striking, demanding higher wages and the protection of employment, all deemed hopelessly "old-fashioned" or worse "masculine".

The real turn-offs, of course, are not mentioned. Were they to be so, the transformation of the unions into US-scale litiga-

tors more interested in obscure courtroom triumphs than the general welfare of their members would surely figure high up. One such "victory" recently rendered the members concerned unable to compete in open tender for their jobs, so dumping them on the dole queue.

The TU boys ought to forget all about "working with leading-edge companies for a world-class workforce". Four little words cover their waterfront: shorter hours, better pay. In fact, another little four-letter word says it all: more.

Despair at union speak's famous last words

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Boxing

Kevin Mitchell sees no feasible threat to the double world heavyweight champion after his 105-second destruction of Bruce Seldon in Las Vegas

Terrible Tyson fast and furious

MIKE TYSON needed only 109 seconds to re-establish himself as the dominant force in heavyweight boxing when he blew away a Las Vegas...

He now holds the World Boxing Council and Seldon's World Boxing Association versions of the title and there seems to be no fighter in the world equipped to do much about it.

Tyson knocked Seldon down twice, first with a mere brush of his right elbow. "I thought the punch missed," said the referee...

The second knockdown, though, was with a heavy measured left hook that had Seldon's eyes rolling like lemons in a fruit machine.

The Londoner's connections must now prepare purse bids for a bout against the erratic Oliver McCall (presently in another drugs rehabilitation programme) for the WBC title that Tyson is likely to vacate this week...

The only scrap of comfort Lewis might draw from all this is that he remains the

only proven, top-flight challenger still roughly in the frame. Riddick Bowe, fat and uninterested, seems beyond redemption. Holyfield looks tired and vulnerable...

It is depressing. But there was no denying the awesome nature of Tyson's performance on Saturday night. He was rattlesnake-quick, elusive and just as powerful as when he ruled the division so completely in the Eighties.

Tyson was more convincing in declaring: "I'm punching harder than when I was younger." He sounded more like the ogre of old, too, when he confronted Holyfield later: "You've got nothing, man, nothing. I'm going to have a good time this fight."

This was Tyson's 20th first-round blow-out in 46 fights and one of his best. At 33 he looks fitter than he has done for a long time, certainly better than in the dissolute days just before he went to prison...

Even so, there is talk of the over-matched Tyson giving up his three houses, closing down his little zoo with the clematis and heading for a life of meditation in Mecca. An awful lot of non-Muslim fighters will be praying to Allah that Tyson means what he says.



Short story... Tyson, muscles popping with all the old intensity, lands the left hook that halted Bruce Seldon in round one

Sport in brief

Sergei leads return

TOP CLASS men's tennis returns to Bourneborough after a 13-year absence today when a strong clay-court field, including the former French Open champion Sergi Bruguera...

Cycling

Chris Boardman, who broke the world one-hour record on Friday, set a course record in winning the Joseph Vossell Memorial time-trial at Lesail, Switzerland...

Athletics

The 32-year-old Romanian distance runner Elena Marogoi has been given a life ban for taking anabolic steroids.

Chess

Two leading British clubs, Barbican and Guildford, were decisively beaten in the opening round of the European Cup at the Barbican centre in London...

Ice Hockey

A goal by Brendan Shanahan 12 seconds from the end of a second period of sudden-death overtime gave Canada a 3-2 victory over Sweden in the first semi-final of the inaugural World Cup of Hockey in Philadelphia...

Racing

Ashkalani has world at his feet

Gratum Rock

ASHKALANI staked his claim to the European mile championship with an impressive victory in the Emirates Prix du Moulin de Longchamp yesterday, sprinting clear in the closing stages to beat Spinning World by a length and a half.

proved," said the Aga Khan, owner of Ashkalani. "He must have good ground and we were wise to avoid Deauville. It depends on how he comes out of this race, but we will be considering the Queen Elizabeth and the Breeders Cup mile, possibly both."

British raiders abroad were notably successful yesterday. Always Aloof stayed on well to defeat Kassani by three-quarters of a length in the Prix Gladiateur and is likely to return to Longchamp for the Prix du Cadran on Arc Saturday.

David Loder's Overbury was a disappointing fifth in the Stockholm Cup, but the Newmarket trainer was at the Curragh to see his Lowther Stakes winner Bianca Nera record an impressive victory in the Moylagh Stud Stakes.

Hemmed in until the final furlong, Bianca Nera was switched for a run by Kevin Darley and as soon as his mount found room she accelerated to beat Rysafar far more easily than the distance of half a length would suggest.

Loder introduced a promising two-year-old at Haydock on Saturday in Apprehension, who easily landed odds of 8-15 in the Altrincham Maiden Stakes. The winner is likely to run in Ascot's Royal Lodge Stakes, which is also a possible target for Henry Cecil's Bestage, game winner of the St Anne's Stakes.

With low numbers at a disadvantage on the firm ground at Haydock, inconveniencing both Miesque's Son and Lucayan Prince in the Sprint Cup, Iktamal put up the best performance of his career to beat Blue Duster by a length.

Southwell all-weather card

Table listing Southwell all-weather racing card with columns for race number, time, race name, and participants.

Home Selling

Table listing home selling results with columns for race number, time, race name, and participants.

Copenhagen

Table listing Copenhagen racing results with columns for race number, time, race name, and participants.

Bath runners and riders with form guide

Large table providing a detailed form guide for Bath runners and riders, including race numbers, names, and performance data.

Prize Leger ride for Oscar

OSCAR Urbina, twice champion apprentice rider in Spain and making a name for himself in Britain this season, has landed the plum ride on Mons in Saturday's Pertemps St Leger at Doncaster...

Gordie, winner of the Queen's Vase at Royal Ascot, has had cut from 10-1 to 8-1 with Ladbrokes and Hill's.

Fallon, who finished second on Sapience in the 1986 St Leger, said: "I'm delighted to get the mount which will be my first for Mr Weld. The Leger is wide open this year and Gordie is a fresh horse guaranteed to get the trip."

Urbina, 24, gets his chance after a successful season which has seen him ride 24 winners, including 21 for Luca Cumani, trainer of 7-2 joint-favourite Mons.

"I think Oscar will give the horse a good ride," said Cumani. "He has done well this season and he knows Mons, having ridden him a lot at home in work."

Prize Leger ride for Oscar

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring a phone number (0930 168+) and a table of racing odds for Bath Southwell.



The Guardian Monday September 9 1996

London Irish 34 Northampton 21

Stout stuff by the Irish

Ian Maize

ANY Englishman fortunate enough to be at Sunbury on Saturday was left in no doubt there will be five nations, not one, in this year's International Championship. At the end of a week in which the future of that tournament was assured, a host of Celtae made their presence felt on the field.

Those old jokes about London Irish training on pints of the black stuff will have to be revised. Both these sides served up free-flowing 15-man rugby of the kind deemed necessary in the game's new world order, while the only Englishman to make a major impression on the game was Northampton's captain and No. 8 Tim Rodber.

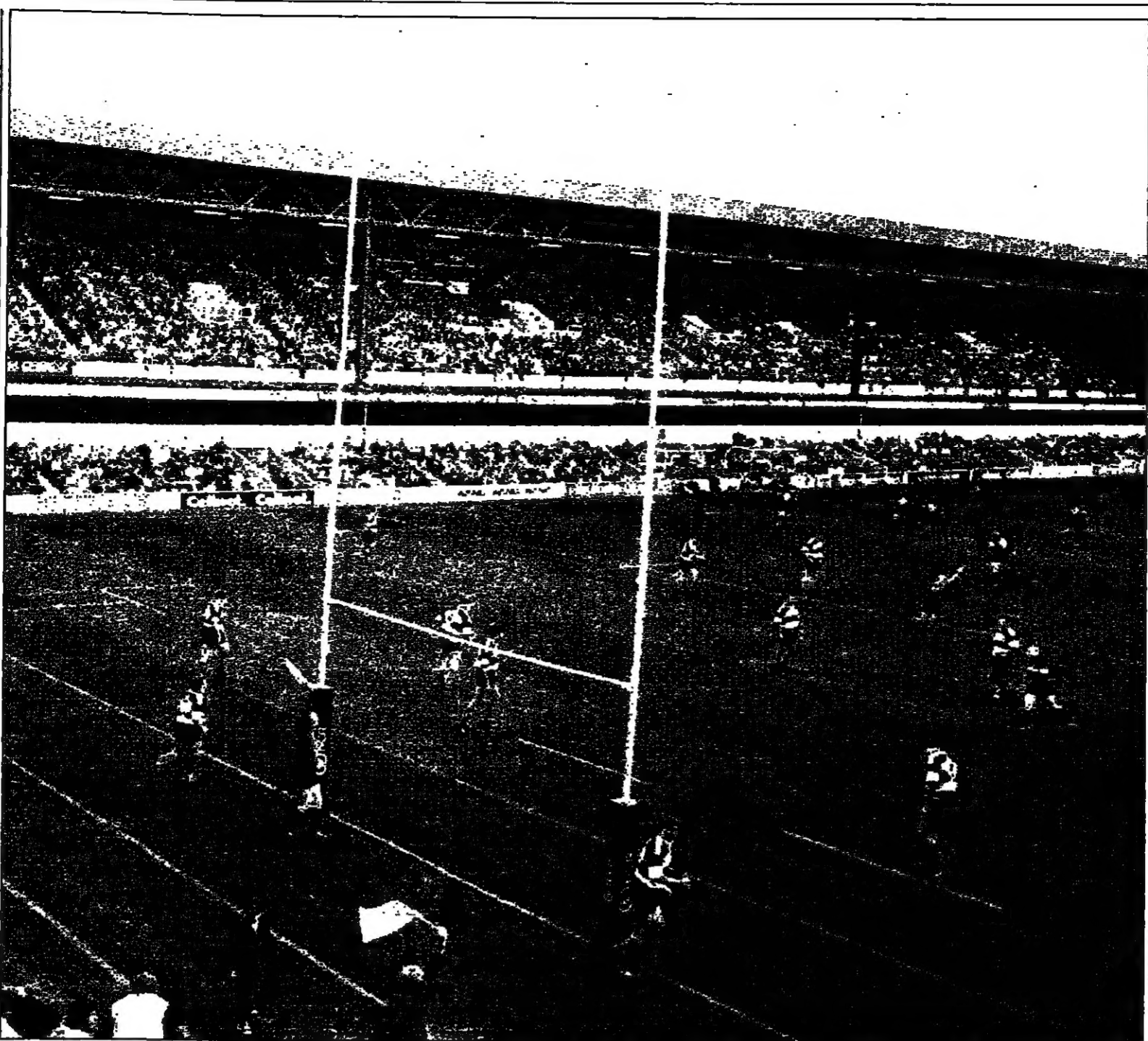
Of the two promoted sides it was Northampton who were expected to challenge the league duopoly of Bath and Leicester. After all the Saints had opened last season's league campaign with 65 points against the Exiles and proceeded to win every match. But Irish have recruited well this summer. The international forwards Jeremy Davidson, Gabriel Fulcher, Victor Costello and Malcolm O'Kelly have crossed the Irish Sea and all four played big games on Saturday. As Northampton's Scottish coach Ian McGeechan admitted: "In the end we were too lightweight to control the game."

With most of Ireland's team refining their games in the intense atmosphere of the Courage league, the Twickenham reactionaries may be right to fear that London's Exile teams may be Trojan Horses for the international aspirations of the Celtic nations. But in the professional era such parochialism is a thing of the past. Only a curmudgeon would regret the opportunity to watch such gifted players as Niall Woods, the Ireland wing, and Gregor Townsend, the best stand-off in Britain by a country mile and at last given the No. 10 role for Northampton here.

After a breathless game in which two tries, by Rodber and Michael Dodd, at the beginning of the first quarter had the Exiles trailing 14-3, Irish's captain Gary Halpin, still perspiring after the post-match shower, said: "The pace of rugby over here is phenomenal. Victor Costello and Jeremy Davidson said the match was faster than some internationals they had been in. But with speed comes better technique. McGeechan's underpowered pack suffered with two young back-row players at lock, Martin Bayfield, the England second row who has damaged his pelvic bone, will have what his coach described as a 'major injection' from the England medical team this week but may be out for the rest of the year.

Perhaps the only Englishman happy here was Irish's coach Clive Woodward. During the summer he almost left Sunbury after a committee-room row about his non-Englishness. But no one at the club will be questioning his parentage now.

SCORES: London Irish: Tries: O'Kelly, Costello, Woods. Conversion: Humphreys. 2 Penalties: Humphreys. Drop: South. Northampton: Tries: Rodber, Dodd, penalty try. Conversion: Dodd. 2. London Irish: C O'Shea, N Woods, R Henderson, P Flood, J Bishop, G Humphreys, I Ewanor, G Rodber, K Kellum, G Halpin (capt), G Fulcher, M O'Kelly, J Davidson, N Costello. Northampton: N Bask, J Hurran, J Bell, M Allen, M Dodd, G Townsend, M Davies, V Holland, A Clarke, M Lewis, S Foster, D Herin, B McKinnon, B Pountney, T Rodber (capt). Referee: S Lander (Liverpool).



Ground for optimism... the Loftus Road crowd watches Gareth Rees land a penalty for Wasps at their new home yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Wasps 36, Saracens 21

Lynagh injury blow for Saracens

Robert Armstrong

THE squishy sound of bone and sinew crunching for cash reward is not exactly new at Loftus Road, the home of Queens Park Rangers, which over the years has played host to American football, the London Floodlit Sevens and a Barry McGuigan world title fight.

But the first league rugby union match staged by Wasps at their new alternative home was a brash foretaste of a ground-sharing trend between two codes. The game, though, was an unhappy one for Michael Lynagh, Saracens' Australian international fly-half, who dislocated his shoulder after 25 minutes. He may be out of action for up to three months. Reputed to be earning about £100,000 for his first season in England, he has only played 106 minutes for his new club.

To complete their miserable afternoon, Saracens' new Ireland international prop Paul Wallace damaged a shoulder. But the sceptics who fore-

cast that rugby fans would not take the Tube to Shepherd's Bush on a Sunday afternoon were confounded by a wildly enthusiastic 3,356 turn-out, many of them self-consciously aware that they were making a bit of sporting history. No one seemed to mind that Wasps delivered a sharp sting with increased admission prices — £12 for members, £15 for those that made last season's £8 ticket look like a nostalgic fantasy.

Chris Wright, the media magnate who has sunk £3.5 million into Wasps, witnessed a fizzing performance by the men in black, particularly the Canadian World Cup fly-half Gareth Rees, who scored 23 points, including a bulldozing try.

"It's the start of a new era in rugby and it's just great to see so many people here," enthused Wright, who stepped on to the pitch before the kick-off to welcome the crowd, looking unaccountably like an ageing rock icon complete with designer stubble.

Nevertheless the prevailing feel-good mood was disturbed now and then by the sort of teething troubles that inevitably occur in a marriage of sporting cultures. The FA announced, employed by QPR, upset the crowd by reading out the registration numbers of illegally parked vehicles while Lynagh, Saracens' goalkeeper, was lining up a difficult 40-metre penalty. Despite the noisy intrusion Lynagh kicked the goal.

The criss-cross pattern of blue markings, for soccer, and fresh white lines for rugby were a bit like a psychedelic dream. Indeed Lynagh seemed to have his head in the clouds when he was clattered hard by Lawrence Dallaglio. "It's a damaging blow for us," said the Saracens coach Mark Evans when he was asked whether lacking the skills of Lynagh for up to three months would hurt more than losing this north London derby.

Still, some things never change at Loftus Road. A remarkable number of drop-dead gorgeous blondes were seated near the directors' box, a tribute perhaps to the pulling power of the talent down on the pitch. Dallaglio, a blond of more menacing hue,

excited shrieking adulation each time he made contact with man or ball. Nigel Melville, the former England scrum-half who is now Wasps' director of rugby, is eagerly promoting a spunky expansive style, in tandem with the coach Rob Smith, aimed at keeping the punters happy. An exciting solo try by the Wasps No. 9 Andy Gomarsall was the follow-up to an opportunist score by Simon Mitchell, the former Harlequins hooker, who showed all the restless hunger of a bullish 20-year-old who wants to play for his country.

Rees, chosen at full-back to accommodate the England A international Alex King at No. 10, clearly relished the windless conditions engendered by the stadium's four high stands, stroking over six penalties with easy assurance. "Gareth and all the boys knew they were involved in a unique occasion and they made the most of it," said Melville. "The atmosphere is a tribute for rugby and we expect an even bigger crowd when Leicester come here in a fortnight's time."

Poor Saracens looked like a corps de ballet without a choreographer once Lynagh went off, though the good news was that his shoulder popped back into place within the hour. A penalty try and a close-range score by the ebullient Hill after the interval were never enough to save Sarries, who trailed by two scores for most of the afternoon.

League rugby at Loftus Road? It's a winner. Saracens: Wasps: Tries: Mitchell, Gomarsall, Rees. Penalties: Rees. 2. Drop: King. Saracens: Tries: penalty try, Hill. Conversion: Tuningley. Penalties: Lynagh. 2. Tuningley. Wasps: G Rees, P Sampson, N Greenwell, D Morris, S Roper, A King, A Gomarsall, D Moly, S Mitchell, W Green, D Cronin, M Greenwood, M White, L Dallaglio (capt), C Sheehy. Saracens: A Tuningley, K Cheney, P Sella, S Ravenscroft, R Wallace (C O'Leary, J Smith, M Lynagh (D Edwards, 25), R Graham, R Andrews, G Bortman, P Wallace, P Jones, A Cooper, J Green, R Hill, A Dipace. Referee: S Campbell (Yorkshire).

● Saracens are next week expected to recruit the Australian prop Tony Daly, the forward who scored the winning try against England in the 1991 World Cup final. He will join Michael Lynagh, who scored the remainder of Australia's points from the boot in that match.

Welsh First Division: Cardiff 12, Llanelli 30

Llanelli's five-try lesson for 'dream team'

Martyn Williams

CRISIS talk at Cardiff after three opening defests may be premature. Yet the so-called "dream team" is everything but and Llanelli's fifth try prompted a mass exodus.

right, especially in the first half. A whirlwind of inter-passed drives by the forwards allowed their talented backs to expose Cardiff deficiencies. Cardiff could not command the line-outs, whereas the throwing of Llanelli's McBryde and the catching of Voyle were object lessons.

tries by Proctor, Boobyer and the impressive flanker Jenkins, 18, put Llanelli almost beyond reach at half-time. The game was full of disciplinary incidents. Derek Bevan, that experienced referee, failed to penalise Llanelli for offside on three occasions in one movement. Frustration took over on the half-hour and fists flew. He issued a yellow card to everyone, even Jonathan Davies, who was 60 yards from the brawl.

The caution went unheeded by Cardiff's scrum-half Hewlett, who was sent off for punching at a line-out. Moo's face was stamped on but this was apparently ignored by a touch judge.

SCORES: Cardiff: Penalties: Jarvis, Llewellyn. Tries: H Jenkins, W Proctor, N Boobyer, G Evans. Conversion: S Jones. Penalties: Evans. Cardiff: J Davies, G Hill, M Hall, G Jones, N Walker, J Thomas, F Smith, L Jarvis, J Hewlett, A Lewis (D Booth, 12), J Humphreys, S Fisher, J Walsford, D Jones, L Jones (R Howley, 40), R Taylor (capt), D Williams, M Jones, J Griffiths, 56, M Winks, G Jones, S Jones, D Davies, 40, R Moore, R Jones, R McBryde, S Jones, V Cooper, M Voyle, H Jenkins, J Williams (C West, 55), J Jones. Referee: W Sivan (WVU).

The League Two big-spenders Newcastle and Richmond find life far from easy in their first competitive encounters of the season

Andrew blows the whistle on referee

Jeremy Alexander

NO SOONER did the RFU find itself without any players than it is being questioned whether it has the referees to cope with the new laws. Rob Andrew, Newcastle's director of rugby development, was not happy with Graham Hughes's banding of their first league match, though they beat Waterloo 30-13.

"We had a decent crowd, it was a good day and all the referees did was play the whistle even when the ball was there to be played," said Andrew. "He kept telling us, 'You can have the scrum.' But I don't want the scrum. I want the ball we've just won. He told me they had a letter telling them they had to blow quickly. If that's the case it's going to be very frustrating this season."

The difficulties came to a head after Waterloo, 18-0 down at quarter-time, came back to 25-13 at the third quarter when Metcalfe let slip a line-out catch and Blyth touched down. Andrew, earlier expansive and often missing his centres to find Stimpson, reverted to kicking type. Newcastle's pack, half of them internationals, were thwarted near Waterloo's line all but once — a dart over by Armstrong — as the scrum revolved or split.

Andrew may have had a point and he says he will be contacting Steve Griffiths, the RFU's referees development officer, over interpretations. But Hughes, too, was entitled to irritation. Newcastle, had tried to settle the game. He was spoken to twice, later forfeited 20 yards for continuing to argue and, if Hughes had seen his late bump into Wright, could well have been dismissed. Andrew will not have a word with him too.

Ryan may be impatient. "The whole idea," he said, "is start being a successful Division One side a year hence." Though they got their

chequebook in first, it may not be so simple. Their frustration no doubt owed something, too, to their opponents' not rolling over. Waterloo eventually proved compact and obdurate, made their tackles stick and stopped Newcastle in their cakewalk.

Newcastle, impatient at lack of support from the old guard after their "sympathetic" takeover, are unrecognisable. Having incorporated black into the green-and-white last season, they have now discarded the green and falconised their name. In the distance Gosforth, re-formed, could be seen beating Hartlepool Athletic in the old colours and having fun. There may have been more insensitivity than Newcastle noticed.

SCORES: Newcastle: Tries: Popplewell, Wilkinson. Andrew Armstrong. Conversion: Andrew. 2. Penalties: Andrew. 2. Waterloo: Tries: Griffiths, Handley. Penalties: Handley. 2. Newcastle: J Stimpson, R Wilkinson, A Blyth, G Collins, T Underwood, R Andrew, G Armstrong, M Proppertwell, R Needles, G Graham, R Metcalfe, D West, P Walton, R Arnold, D Proppertwell. Waterloo: D Thompson, J Green, M Coak, N Hill, G Alagonan, A Hanley, G Smith, S Wright, R Farlow, P Mitchell, J Britton, T Jones, M Beeson, P White (C Tomlinson, 67), S Kay, D Elyth, P Buckton, S Bezy. Referee: S Hughes (Manchester).

Inspirational Eves helps raise the Coventry roof

David Irvine

LEAGUE Two rugby could be a real buzz about the place again, as in the Sixties and Seventies when Cardiff or Northampton were the dish of the day. Maybe the fireworks and the dancing girls were new but the passion and commitment shown

were among the 4,000 crowd must have remembered it. Without those qualities there was no way Coventry could have matched these grandest of the game's non-league riches in terms of class, experience and skill the Londoners held all the aces. Yet in the end such virtues counted for little when ranged against the organisation, motivation and optimism of a fired-up home side.

Awesome as Richmond's line-up of stars was — more than half the side were internationals — they lacked what their opponents possessed, a strategist. For in the player-coach Derek Eves Coventry had a tactician of such influence that even Ben Clarke looked ineffective in comparison.

From slow, rather bungled beginnings — and early on the tackling was pathetic — Eves hauled Coventry to equality and finally superiority by example. And no one responded better than the No. 8 Patten, the lock Blackmore and the skipper Hardwick. Appropriately the four-

players of a superb recovery — and after all they were 13-3 down at half-time — were the very pack (the tight-head Crane excepted) who had won the League Three title from Richmond last season. Once on top, backs such as Gallagher and Dawson especially were able to flaunt their abilities.

Dawson's crucial try, made from a five-point catch by Patten, exemplified both Coventry's commitment and Richmond's complacency. And one could not help but notice, as Wales's Terry Colner and Kevin Bowring must have done, that he left Scott Guinness for dead. Richmond's stand-off Adrian Davies had a particularly wretched game.

SCORES: Coventry: Tries: Dawson, Patten. Conversion: Patten. Penalties: Patten. 2. Richmond: Tries: Westford, Boyd. Conversion: Boyd. Coventry: W Kilford, D John, M Gallagher, R Robinson, A Smallwood, J Harris, T Dawson, R Hardwick (capt), D Addison, M Crane, D Greenwood, A Blackmore, J Horrobin, D Eves, J Patten. Richmond: S Mason, M Hutton, T Westford, S Correll, A Boyd, A Davies, A Moore, D MacFarland, B Moore, D Crockett, R West, C Guinness, L Jones, D Clarke (capt), S Guinness. Referee: J Pearson (Durham).

Rugby Union Leicester 28, Bath 25

Catt makes his mark but Tigers nip in at the death

Liley's boot works overtime as the champions pay for poor discipline

Robert Armstrong

MIKE CATT played the kind of free and easy running game at sun-splashed Welford Road that promptly put his name back in the frame for the England No. 10 shirt. Sure, Leicester nipped the win with a last-minute penalty try — shades of Bath's unlikely winner in last May's Pilkington Cup final — yet it was the Courage champions who scored three brilliant tries in open play that thank their multi-skilled fly-half.

Catt, who has won nearly all his caps at full-back, set Leicester persistent problems in midfield with his turn of pace and a habit of finding space under pressure, qualities that England have lacked for years. He had a dismal outing against the Springboks at No. 10 last season, but no one can deny he is building a strong case for a second chance.

"I have no problem with the running game and I think my kicking out of hand has improved since last season," said Catt. "No. 10 remains my preferred position but I will play for England wherever I'm picked; it's up to the selectors. I still believe I have the ability to play international rugby at 10."

Catt's performance summed up Bath's overall effort, which was brim-full of wit and enterprise yet woefully short on individual discipline. Casually conceded penalties flowed Leicester's way, allowing John Liley to notch up seven penalty goals before that late try. Offside, killing the ball and late tackles are misdemeanours Bath must address urgently.

John Hall, Bath's director of rugby, said: "We gave away far too many penalties but we did play some very good rugby and if we go on like that we'll destroy some sides this season. I think a team can lose maybe three or four games this season and still win the league, but we'll have to eradicate those errors."

Certainly Hall has ample scope for making changes with a squad of 40 at his disposal: his rugby league

signings from Wigan, Henry Paul and Jason Robinson, could make their debut in Wednesday's Anglo-Welsh Cup tie against Swansea. Hall may well adopt a mix-and-match selection policy to reduce the dangers of burn-out before Christmas; after all, the European Cup remains his priority.

Leicester, watched by Duncan Hall, their new development coach from Queensland, were relieved to gain their first league victory as paid professionals after losing out to Bath in both league and cup last season. Hall, a former Wallaby lock/No. 8 described by the director of rugby Bob Dwyer as "easily the best young coach in Australia", must have been impressed by the fearsome commitment of the Tigers' forwards, especially the tight-head Garforth, whose tackling put the mid-field backs to shame. The new back-row unit — Wells, Miller and Will Johnson (brother of Martin) — also worked a treat, notably in loose play.

Dwyer recognised the importance of the result but cautioned: "Old habits are causing an absence of confidence in certain areas behind the scrum. I have told the guys we are 30 points better than today's effort."

The Tigers looked capable of scoring a couple of tries in the opening half-hour but built up a 12-3 lead thanks to Liley, who finished with a total of 23 points. The full-back has a no-nonsense technique and a powerful follow-through which means offences at halfway are likely to be severely punished.

For all that, Bath seemed to have the game firmly in their grasp shortly after the interval when Nicol, with a close-range pick-up at a ruck, and Catt, who chipped and charged from halfway, scored exhilarating tries. However, Bath frittered away their 18-12 lead with further offences and, even though Guscott scored a classy try in the 70th minute, Leicester's late surge did the trick. For a change, Bath let the big fish slip away.

SCORES: Leicester: Tries: Nicol, Catt, Guscott. Conversion: Liley. Penalties: Liley. 2. Bath: Tries: Nicol, Catt, Guscott. Conversion: Liley. Penalties: Guscott. 2. Leicester: J Liley, G Hickey, S Poner, W Dwyer, R Underwood (capt), M Malone, A Healy, G Rowntree, R Casali, M Gwynne, M Johnson, M Poole, J Wells, W Johnson, E Miller. Bath: J Cattard, J Singh, P de Champs, G Adams, V Dooop, M Haag, N Redman, R Webster, A Robinson, E Peters. Referee: E Morrison (RFU).

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Rugby League

Stones Premiership final: St Helens 14, Wigan 44

Farrell helps Wigan take the consolation prize

Paul Fitzpatrick at Old Trafford

SHEER determination not to end the season without at least one piece of silverware carried Wigan to the Premiership Trophy before a crowd of 35,013 last night.

Inspired by their young captain and loose forward Andy Farrell, the Man of the Match, they kept Saints at bay for all but a brief period in the first half and an even briefer period in the second.

Paul Newlove, the Saints centre, did not deserve to be on the losing side but Wigan, who have now won this trophy three times in succession, were undeniably the superior side and underlined it when Ellison got his hat-trick late in the game to take them past 40 points. It was getting close to embarrassing for Saints.

The referee Mr Campbell called for a video ruling after only five minutes. He was right to do so: Ellison had moved sharply enough on to Hall's angled kick but failed

to ground the ball legitimately.

By half-time, though, Ellison had been well compensated for that disappointment, the winger scoring twice as Wigan moved into an ominous lead of 18-8.

Connolly got their first try when he showed electrifying pace from close to the halfway line after gathering the ball from acting half-back. Saints' defence could have been more alert but Connolly was not for stopping.

McVey, Joynt's replacement in the Saints second row, has a rare ability to turn in the tackle and release the ball. It was this skill, coupled with Newlove's strength, which brought Saints their first try after 15 minutes. That was Newlove's 250th touchdown of an increasingly impressive career.

McVey was fouled in the 32nd minute and Goulding opted for two easy points, but either side of that were more points for Wigan. First Edwards, the master of support play, was on hand to finish off Robinson's break and then Ellison scored in the 37th and 37th minutes. The first came

when Farrell used his height and threw the ball, like a soccer-style throw-in, over the top to his winger; and then Ellison completed a superb sweeping movement which involved Radlinski, Farrell, Robinson and Edwards.

The early second-half try that Saints desperately needed if they were to remain in the contest came in the 47th minute, but not before another video ruling. A wonderful piece of centre play by Newlove provided Martyn with an opening. There was no argument that the stand-off was brought down before the line but there was no double movement, his natural momentum took him over.

Goulding landed a simple goal but, disappointingly for Saints, Wigan moved eight points ahead again almost immediately when Farrell slipped Houghton clear and the second-row forward had the legs and the strength to outstrip the Saints defence.

The impressive Newlove twice went close to making further inroads into Wigan's lead, but it was Saints who were again caught out when Wigan worked a clever scrum

move close the halfway line. Edwards fed Paul and the elusive Kiwi stand-off slipped between Newlove and Prescott and sprinted clear.

If Saints did not accept then that the contest was sliding irretrievably away, they had to a few minutes later when Robinson slipped his leash and scored in the corner.

St Helens: Prescott; Hayes, Hunte, Newlove, Sullivan; Martyn, Goulding; Perleci, Cunningham, Fogarty, McVey, Marley, Hammond, Substitutes: Arnold, Hough, Pugh, Booth, Wiggins, Hadji, Robinson, Tugamala, Connolly, Ellison, Paul, Edwards, Farrell, Hall, O'Connor, Houghton, Cassidy, Farrell, Substitutes: Murdoch, Barrow, Lewis, Johnson.

Referee: D Campbell (Wigan).

● Salford won the Premiership Divisional final 18-6 against a resilient Keighley, for whom this was Phil Larder's final game as coach. Salford might have been reduced to 12 men in the 61st minute when Steve Hampson committed what looked a blatant trip on Daryl Powell, but instead he dismissed the full-back was placed on report and that was the only piece of good luck Salford needed.

Steve Blakeley, their captain, contributed 11 points with a try, three goals and a drop goal.

Tennis

Graf takes 21st Grand Slam title

Stephen Bierley at Flushing Meadow

STEFFI GRAF won her 21st Grand Slam title last night, comprehensively outplaying Monica Seles to take the US Open in straight sets. The No.1 seed never looked in trouble, Seles making too many unforced errors in a 7-5, 6-1 defeat that was completed just before the skies opened again.

Graf lost her serve at 5-4 but immediately broke back before serving out for the first set. She broke Seles again to take charge of the next with a succession of devastating forehands. It was all over in one hour and 20 minutes.

On Saturday there was no doubt that Bruce Seldon lay down quicker than Andre Agassi: he was on the canvas almost before Mike Tyson breathed on him. Agassi last-ed about an hour and a half

more against Michael Chang but the Daily News, New York's "hometown newspaper", had no hesitation in branding him "gutless". Even the more reserved New York Times dubbed him a colourful accessory.

Agassi had been quite brilliant against Thomas Muster during their quarter-final under the floodlights. In his semi-final with Chang, in the cold light, he was little short of pathetic and lost 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. He never looked as if he wanted to win.

He blamed the wind and suggested the match "never really had any intensity". The wind was real enough. As for intensity, that was all in Chang's half of the court.

Pete Sampras remarked recently that his win over Agassi in the US Open last year had done more damage than was thought at the time. Certainly Agassi has had an extremely patchy year, sal-

vaged only — and arguably — by his gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics. The decline began when he lost, also to Chang, in straight sets in the Australian Open semi-finals.

"You have to be match tough," a subdued Agassi said here. "There are a lot of things that go into playing intense tennis. It comes from a long process of hard work and feeling you are getting better." Against Chang, who is a much faster mover than Muster, his footwork was frequently inadequate.

Agassi believed he had rediscovered his touch and confidence in Atlanta. He won the next tournament in Cincinnati, beating Chang in the final. Then, in the first round at Indianapolis, immediately before the US Open, he was defaulted for swearing at the umpire.

This is clearly a critical point in the 25-year-old Agassi's career. He never will be

consistent. But even he must now realise that unless he commits himself a good deal more to fitness then his big-time days may not return.

Goran Ivanisevic's game plan against Sampras in the other semi-final should have been crystal clear. The American had just survived the most gruelling of five-set matches against Alex Corretja and the Croatian needed to take Sampras's temperature early. Instead he played directly into the champion's hands by trying to hit winners with every shot instead of merely trying to keep the ball in play and wear Sampras down. But Ivanisevic appears incapable of thinking at all once on court.

Ivanisevic, who lost 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3, finds his failure at this level extremely frustrating. "But what can I do? Tennis is a tough sport. You are alone. No one can change you, if you play bad."



Jumping all the way to the bank... Edwards on his way to a 17.59m leap and a day that reaped \$150,000 STEFANO PELLANONI

Mayock responds to Nebiolo's overtures

Duncan Mackay on the British athlete who missed out at the IAAF Grand Prix final but hopes to make up for it in Sarajevo today

JOHN MAYOCK will never be one of sport's millionaires. The Yorkshireman missed the biggest pay-day of his career when he finished ninth in the 1500 metres at the IAAF Grand Prix final in Milan on Saturday.

But while most of his colleagues were packing their bags and planning holidays, Mayock was joining 200 others en route to Sarajevo to take part in today's Solidarity meeting. "I think it's important that athletes put something back into the sport," he said. "It's no hardship to do one more meeting."

Mayock, one of only two Britons taking part in the first international sports event to be held in the war-ravaged Bosnian capital since the 1984 Winter Olympics,

needed special permission from his employer, Stafford Council, to attend. "I thought about not competing after missing out on the \$5,000 prize, but I had made a commitment and I wanted to honour that," he said.

Unlike Michael Johnson, who responded to a plea from his mother not to make the trip, Mayock does not fear for his safety in a city which until nine months ago was in a war zone. The Italian Air Force has guaranteed the athletes' safety, but Johnson and a number of top Americans remained unconvinced. Even assurances from the US Embassy in Sarajevo failed to convince them.

Primo Nebiolo, the president of the IAAF, whose brunt of the meeting is made a last-minute personal

plea to leading agents to try to convince more top athletes to make the trip to an event that has captured the imagination of Sarajevo. The rebuilt Kosevo stadium which staged the Olympic opening and closing ceremonies 12 years ago has been sold out for weeks. "The arena holds 50,000 but we could have sold half a million tickets," said a senior IAAF officer.

The jewel in the meeting's crown is Daniel Komen, the Kenyan 5,000 metres runner who won \$250,000 as the overall IAAF Grand Prix champion, the biggest cheque in track and field history.

Under the convoluted scoring system, Komen was assured of the prize so long as he avoided defeat on Saturday. Jonathan Edwards, having won the triple jump with

a leap of 17.59 metres, could only watch as his rival battled it out with Salah Elissouf of Morocco. "My heart missed a beat when Hissouf took the lead on the last lap," said Edwards. "But I never really doubted Daniel would win."

Not that Edwards was complaining. He collected \$100,000 for finishing second overall to add to the \$50,000 for winning his event. "Compared to what they used to earn, this is mega money," he said. "I'm going to buy my wife a new car and make some investments for my two children."

Other Britons celebrating a windfall were Paula Radcliffe, the winner of \$10,000 for finishing fourth in the 5,000 metres, and Darren Campbell.

Campbell, coached by Linford Christie, was called up as a replacement in the 100 metres and earned \$6,000 for finishing seventh. He was so happy afterwards he responded to Nebiolo's request and travelled to Sarajevo.

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Equestrianism

King makes up for Atlanta

John Kerr

MARY KING yesterday won the Burghley Horse Trials on Star Appeal, her third and most important success since her disappointment at the Atlanta Olympics.

A single error in yesterday's showjumping test did not reduce her overnight advantage over last year's winner, the New Zealander Andrew Nicholson, whose Cartoom II also hit a fence. Faultless rounds by Australia's 1992 Olympic champion Matt Ryan on Hinnegar and Pippa Funnell on Bits And Pieces promoted them to third and fourth places.

King's highly popular victory, worth £15,000, was hardly out of turn as she has twice filled second and fourth places at Burghley. She should be a strong contender in the Open European Championships there next year.

In Saturday's cross-country Bruce Davidson on Squelch, who had shared the dressage lead with King, was one of a dozen fallers.

Motor Racing

Stuck lead sticks

John Kerr

HANS STUCK and Thierry Boutsen drove their Porsche to victory in the eighth round of the World Sportscar Championship, the Gulf Oil Global GT Challenge, at Brands Hatch yesterday. They finished one lap clear of the McLaren of Andy Wallace and Olivier Grouillard after four hours' racing.

Boutsen, a former grand prix driver, said: "Brands Hatch is a traditional circuit which would not be up to modern Formula One standard but I really enjoy coming here. It presents us with a real challenge with lots of difficult corners."

The Porsche, making its championship debut, led from start to finish and gained an advantage by needing only one tyre change. But it pulled clear only in the final half-hour and the championship leaders Ray Bellm and James Weaver stayed in touch until their McLaren blew its engine.

Their team-mates Lindsay Owen-Jones and Pierre-Henri Raphanel took third place on the final corner when John

Nielsen and Thomas Bscher, also in a McLaren, ran out of petrol.

Bellm and Weaver retain the championship lead and, although their advantage has been cut to 32 points with two races to come, there is only a slim mathematical chance that anyone will overhaul them.

Frank Biela swept Audi to a triple crown in the Auto Trader RAC Touring Car Championship despite finishing only fourth and third in rounds 23 and 24 at Donington Park yesterday.

The German added the teams' and manufacturers' titles to the drivers' crown he captured at Thruxton two weeks ago. The achievement was all the more remarkable as Audi were competing in the British championship for the first time.

Biela's 10 points for finishing third in round 24 put Audi 42 points ahead of BMW in the manufacturers' championship, with a maximum of 30 to be won in the final two races at Brands Hatch in a fortnight.

Ice Hockey

Five Hawks dismissed

Vic Batchelder

BARELY 36 hours after the British Ice Hockey Association suspended Kingston Hawks' head coach Keith Milbence, with his assistant and a player, after incidents in last week's Benson and Hedges Cup game with Newcastle Cobras in Hull, the Hawks had five more players dismissed from Saturday's return match at Newcastle.

All the trouble occurred within the opening nine minutes of the third period of a match Cobras won 10-4. The most serious incident involved Hawks' Ukrainian forward Danuse Bauba, adjudged to have head-butted Newcastle's defenceman Jukka Soumalainen. The Finn was also dismissed.

Kingston's Damian Smith was involved in a collision with the referee George Mitchell in the dressing room with a gross-misconduct penalty. Other Hawks dismissed were Gino Santerre, George Trakos and Chris Eimers.

مكازم الاحمد

SOCCER

Premiership: Sunderland 0, West Ham United 0

Futre storms off on gloomy day

Michael Walker

THIS scarcely new but the joke about Sunderland fancying three seasons in the top flight — autumn, winter and spring — still gets an airing. Yesterday at Roker Park it felt like three seasons in one long afternoon when the joke was on all the 18,642 spectators paying a minimum £16 to watch a game of quite stunning dross. The lucky ones were those with an obstructed view of this goal-less bore.

"It wasn't the best of football matches," Peter Reid admitted, a line that was immediately installed as hot favourite for the Understatement of the Season competition. It was soon followed by Harry Redknapp's "It wasn't classic, was it?"

The only way a goal was going to come was by way of a horrible mistake, and even when the West Ham defence managed that for the umpteenth time nine minutes from the end Marc Rieper, misheading in front of his own goal, failed to find the net.

Thus we were denied a goal from a West Ham player, which after the previous 81 minutes of poor football from them was scarcely surprising.

Just before half-time West Ham's captain, a clearly frustrated Julian Dicks, bawled out his Dumitrescu at the top of his voice in a by-then silent ground. But Dicks could have been shouting at any of his multi-million, multi-national team-mates.

As for language, Redknapp said afterwards that there was no problem with communication among his foreign players. "They all speak perfect English, except [Paulo] Futre."

So that was one excuse gone, and after that Redknapp, as Reid had also done, mentioned the wind affecting the game. The West Ham manager then pointed to the fact that all season he has been without four first-choice men, among them two midfielders, "people like Moncur and Babbin. It's difficult to pass the ball with players like that missing". Redknapp insisted: "I came here to win it. I started the game with three forwards who wouldn't have a clue to defend, so you couldn't say I



Jumping the queue... Steve Agnew of Sunderland tries to avoid the attentions of Tim Breaker, left, and Slaven Bilic

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

came here looking to be negative."

Perhaps it was just as well that Futre's English is still broken; he stormed off straight to the dressing room, refusing to sit on the bench, when substituted a minute from time.

Redknapp, however, played down talk of a rift with the Portuguese international forward, who before the first

game of the season at Arsenal had been upset with his new club when he was refused his favourite No. 10 shirt.

West Ham's manager said: "Futre is as good as gold. He said to me, 'I've never been subbed before'."

"I'd rather he was upset than walk off as if he was not bothered."

Any more displays like this and Futre will become used to

being replaced. Yet he did on occasions remind everyone why Milan once signed him. There was the odd twist and shimmy, though nothing more substantial.

West Ham created two chances in the game: both fell to Dumitrescu. The first, after a Futre run, was driven carelessly over the bar by the Romanian and the second, after half-time, was

wastefully headed too high.

As for Sunderland, they showed an appetite for the game but scoring has become a problem. Their best opportunity arrived at Quinn's feet on the half-hour. Bilic, uncharacteristically sloppy yesterday in bringing the ball out of defence, was once again easily dispossessed. The ball came to Quinn just

inside the box but, in a one-on-one confrontation with Miklosko, it wedged between Quinn's feet and the tall striker tumbled slowly to the ground.

After that Stewart saw a slight shot cleared off the line and Ord was clattered in the area. No penalty was given. In any case, given the context of this game, it probably would have been missed.

Sheffield Wednesday 0, Chelsea 2

Leboeuf's command performance

Michael Walker

WITH Alex Ferguson fretting furiously about the great European theatre and Newcastle United only remembering to remember their lines now, the coming few months could see a few new faces auditioning for the Premiership's big final scene next May.

Sheffield Wednesday have been the first to tread the boards and, almost embarrassed, have winked at the audience like a shovelled Norman Wisdom. Although the paying customers have been busy pointing and mouthing, "Behind you! Behind you!"

Behind them on Saturday at Hillsborough was a big bad wolf called Rudud. He knew all the lines, played the part perfectly and unsettled Wednesday sufficiently for the hosts to get all excited at first only to finish too soon.

Wednesday are still in the lead role and have time to rehearse before meeting Arsenal a week today, but Rudud's boys are already polished and a victory over Aston Villa on Sunday would justify their top billing. Gullit knows that is considerably harder than it sounds, and even after this "professional" performance he said: "We know we are not near where we want to be."

Where Chelsea are in second, which, despite what advertising agencies tell us, is not a bad place to be, yet Gullit is aware of the leap required to be credible top dogs.

Chelsea have a fine spine in Leboeuf, Di Matteo and Vialli and a useful supporting cast in Petrescu and Myers on the flanks and Wise, Burley and

Hughes. The Romanian Petrescu had a wasteful afternoon but fortunately for him Burley and Myers did not.

Gullit acknowledged that this was far from a fireworks display but, although Wednesday outran Chelsea, crucially the Londoners were never overrun.

Central to this was the resilience of Leboeuf, a man singled out by David Pleat as a "big player for them". Although he wanted to come off after 20 minutes, complaining of a sore hip, the Frenchman steadied the defence in the face of Wednesday's phenomenal giddy start.

Of Wednesday's front six only Collins appeared to have any defensive inclinations. On the wings, Blinker and Whittingham charged and hustled, crossed and crossed again. In the middle, Booth and Kharine jumped and jumped and Kharine was less than Schmeichel for a while.

Then Kharine fell heavily on a knee and had to be carried off and Chelsea went ahead. The sequence took about two minutes in total and ended with Burley stealing the ball from Stefanovic and coolly finishing after a swift descent on Pressman.

Nearly half an hour had gone and though Burley took one look back as he scored his team-mates never did. A few weeks ago Gullit made much of the fact that Chelsea had taken the lead 17 times last season and still not won, protecting their lead now became their priority.

Wednesday, admitted Pleat, lacked the guile to overcome this and when Myers spanked in a second a Wednesday side lost for the first time this season. The youths and reserves, however, remain undefeated.

Aston Villa 2, Arsenal 2

Villa's time will come

Martin Thorpe

IT IS difficult to know with Brian Little: is he genuinely that laid back or is he putting on a front for the media?

Throwing away a 2-0 lead which would have lifted Aston Villa to the top of the Premiership would traumatise most managers. But for Little it was "not a problem. Every now and then you get a nice early lesson".

The cynic would suspect that he had just come from giving his players a dressing-room dressing-down, but with Little one could also imagine that he really did believe, and wisely, that success was a long-term aim and not a short-term imperative.

The afternoon could have been seen as one big lesson. The way Arsenal came back to take a point helped their caretaker manager Stewart Houston realise just how well the players had kept alive their team spirit amid the unsettling hiatus that exists pre-Wenger. Much of it is down to Houston's impressively unassuming direction.

The third lesson was for Michael Riley: referees are on a hiding to nothing. He had already hit the headlines by booking nine players and sending off one at the City Ground a fortnight ago, now because Arsenal equalised in injury time, Villa fans treated the 31-year-old in his first Premiership season to a standing ovation of boos as he left.

When the home players Taylor and Curie then questioned his timekeeping they were

ticked off with a booking. An urban myth then erupted — fuelled on Radio 5's 6-0 phone-in show — that Riley had played six minutes' injury time. In fact he played 3min 08sec and Arsenal scored after 1min 50sec, hardly a crime.

The blame for Arsenal equalising was totally Villa's. They took their foot off the gas, as Arsenal put it on.

Villa led through a disputed goal when Mirosevich, looking very offside, collected Draper's through-ball and beat Lukic. The second derived from magnetic control by Yorke, who pulled away from Linighan before firing in a shot which the goalkeeper could only rapel; Mirosevich gobbled up the rebound.

As in midweek against Chelsea, Arsenal perked up when behind. Bergkamp's measured chip crept over Stuart Pearce's head and on to Merson's for the first goal, then Linighan converted Keown's flick from a corner in injury time.

Arsenal are hoping Arsene Wenger will arrive at the end of this month. Their most obvious problem on Saturday was, despite Merson's valiant efforts, a lack of invention in midfield. Luckily the Arsenal players' knowledge of European lore should offset any such deficit. In tomorrow's UEFA Cup tie with Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Villa approach their tie with Helsingborgs with an impressive game based on patience and one-touch passing that will serve them well in Europe and increasingly, one suspects, in the Premiership.

First Division: Reading 2, Oxford Utd 0

Williams proves his worth at either end for Reading

Trevor Haylett

IT WAS 100 years last Thursday that Reading first started playing at Elm Park and it was only right, as for all special anniversary occasions, that the neighbours be invited round to join the celebration. And as all good neighbours and party guests should, Oxford fitted nicely into the hosts' plans.

The first League meeting between the Thames Valley rivals for 13 years was won for Reading largely through the work of Martin Williams, who settled them with an early goal and was then perfectly placed with a goal-line clearance to keep the lead intact. Trevor Morley's goal with seven minutes remaining was the icing on the cake.

Oxford had travelled the 30 miles that separates the sides thinking cautious thoughts. With Nigel Jemson still injured, Paul Moody was forced to operate as a lone striker and that made a first away win even more remote. Denis Smith, however, continues to radiate optimism. "We improved after half-time and will keep working until we get it right," the manager said.

The thought occurred that had Robert Maxwell had his way all these years ago then the amalgamation of Reading

and Oxford today might not have been without appeal.

To the strength of Mart Elliott in defence could be added the elegance of Dariusz Wdowczyk. Bobby Ford's tenacity would win a place in a midfield which would also find room for Mick Gooding, and on the form he offered in flashes yesterday Williams might just earn a place in higher company than this.

Gooding's 15th-minute corner was won by Morley but a score still seemed improbable, given the bouncing ball and the number of bodies in the way. Sizing up the situation in an instant, Williams executed a perfectly timed lob over the goalkeeper Phil Whitehead.

Williams, who figured infrequently last season after his free transfer from Luton, should have made it two, shooting low into the side netting before half-time, and inaccuracy also afflicted Lee Nogan when opportunity knocked twice.

However, Williams proved his worth again on the hour when, from Joey Beauchamp's corner, Elliott nodded on and the striker, standing by his right post, proved a more than capable defender.

It was a rare Oxford threat and Reading's superiority was re-emphasised by Morley's header after a pin-point cross from Paul Bodin.

Souness finds the Kop forgive but not forget

Mark Redding sees a hard man make his first return to the old stamping ground

ARCHIE GEMMILL of Scotland once said of him: "If he was a chocolate drop he'd eat himself." Gordon Strachan called him "the tidiest man I'd ever met; he used to keep his underpants on hangers". Gianluca Vialli, at Sampdoria, once covered those pants in Deep Heat.

Graeme Souness will always have difficulty finding people in the game kindly disposed towards him, but then he asks no quarter and gives none. Vialli's prank may have brought a tear to his eye but it is unlikely he was similarly affected by the polite applause he received on his first return to Anfield since being forced out of the manager's seat in January 1994.

Forgiven he may be but those he wounded have not forgotten. Phil Thompson, the former England centre-half, told Saturday's Liverpool Echo: "I find it difficult to applaud a man who ruined my professional life when he dismissed me as reserve-team coach."

Thompson was not the only one Souness upset dur-

ing a turbulent 33 months in charge at the club which he had served as an imperious captain. He accused senior players such as Rush and Barnes of not pulling their weight; he antagonised supporters by selling the story of his triple heart-bypass operation to the Sun, which had been boycotted in the city for its shameful coverage of the Hillsborough disaster; and he upset the directors with a string of bad results, by which time the writing had been on the wall so long it was inevitable that he be asked to leave.

He went to Galatasaray in Turkey, but true to form he departed from there leaving had blood behind. After beating Fenerbahce in the domestic cup final, he wound up the already volatile fans by running half the length of the pitch to plant a club flag in the centre circle and was summarily sacked.

Now he is at Southampton, a sorry bunch who escaped relegation by one place last year but who are at least absorbing some of the Scot's fighting spirit. They came close to scraping



Souness... polite reception

a point against a lazy Liverpool when another Anfield old boy, Magilton, cancelled out Collymore's first goal of the season. But Heaney, a half-time substitute for the ineffectual Le Tissier, set up McManaman's last-minute winner with a ridiculous back-pass that fell short of Beasant.

Afterwards Souness said politely: "I was very pleased with the welcome. This is the place I learned my trade and I'll always have great affection for the club." Asked about a unattractive of boos that greeted his arrival in the dug-out, he said: "There will always be a negative," peremptorily cut the conference short and walked out. It was over thus.

Stone out for rest of season

STEVE STONE, the Nottingham Forest and England midfielder, looks likely to miss the rest of the season with a knee injury sustained in the fifth minute of the 0-0 draw against Leicester City at the City Ground.

Stone slipped when under no pressure from a Leicester player and was writhing in agony as he was carried off and taken to hospital. Forest's manager Frank Clark said: "He has ruptured the patella tendon which holds the kneecap together. I think it very unlikely that he will play again this season."

Meanwhile the chances of Forest's striker Andrea Silenzi returning home to play in Italy appear to have taken a point helped their caretaker manager Stewart Houston realise just how well the players had kept alive their team spirit amid the unsettling hiatus that exists pre-Wenger. Much of it is down to Houston's impressively unassuming direction.

The third lesson was for Michael Riley: referees are on a hiding to nothing. He had already hit the headlines by booking nine players and sending off one at the City Ground a fortnight ago, now because Arsenal equalised in injury time, Villa fans treated the 31-year-old in his first Premiership season to a standing ovation of boos as he left.

When the home players Taylor and Curie then questioned his timekeeping they were

NORTH The NatWest Trophy.

Congratulations to Mike Watkinson and his men for taking the NatWest Trophy back to Old Trafford. Unfortunately, for Essex, it seems Lancashire's name was on it from the start.

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Five pages of sport

Boxing Tyson hands out 109-second world title beating 12

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Sport Extra

Schumacher wins with Hill tyred out

THE ordeal of Damon Hill continues. After taking the lead in the Italian Grand Prix yesterday the world champion committed a simple mistake which cost him the outside chance of wrapping up his first title.



Hill... clipped tyre barrier

Hill made his customary poor start from pole position conceding the lead to Alesi. But, smarting from the humiliations of the past week, he charged back to repass the Frenchman. His lead had grown to two seconds when, at the start of the sixth lap, his car clipped the tyre barrier marking the inside of the Goodyear chicane and spun to a halt on the track.

In one sense Hill's race was over as he trudged back to the pits. In another it was very much alive, with his teammate Jacques Villeneuve now free to eat away at Hill's 15-point lead in the championship.

Three pit stops condemned him to seventh place, out of the points, so the two men will go to Portugal in a fortnight's time separated by an unchanged margin. With only one further event left on the calendar, in Japan in mid-October, the odds have swung further in Hill's favour.

Hill was candid about the misjudgment that may have cost him his third Italian Grand Prix. "I threw it away," he admitted. "I was very pleased with the way the race was going initially and I was enjoying myself. I've only got myself to blame."

Slip costs Hill the Italian Grand Prix but his team-mate Villeneuve fails to take advantage

Richard Williams reports from Monza

He came out of the race with a measure of credit among those who heard Alesi's subsequent description of their battle during the first lap when the Benetton, sixth on the grid, shot into the lead within the few seconds before the cars reached the chicane.

The vigour of Hill's counter-attack, which saw him carve past the Frenchman at the Lesmo curves and then resist Alesi's aggressive attempt to repass at the Ascari chicane, surprised and impressed his opponent.

"When Damon came by he was fighting like it was not the first lap but the last," Alesi said. "From someone who's fighting for the world championship, that surprised me. He was taking big risks."

Ninety minutes later Hill's fortunes were of little interest to the tens of thousands of flag-waving Italian fans who stormed the fences and thronged the track to welcome Schumacher to the victory rostrum.

The last time a Ferrari won at Monza, in the hands of Gerhard Berger, old Enzo Ferrari had been dead barely a month and the victory took on the elements of a valediction. Schumacher's win, by contrast, was a celebration of rebirth.

The heavily reworked F310 is far from being the best car in the field but Schumacher's genius overrides its defects. Yesterday he drove a superb strategic race, overcoming his own poor getaway to profit early on from the temporary absence of Mika Hakkinen, who went into the pits to fit a new nose assembly after hitting a tyre barrier on the third lap, and the permanent removal of Hill.

Holding station in second place, less than a second behind Alesi, Schumacher bided his time, waiting for the Benetton to make its pit stop. "I had quite a lot of fuel on board," he said, "and I knew I could wait until later to stop. Jean's car had a very good top speed and I couldn't overtake him, so it was the safe strategy to overtake him in the pit stops."

On lap 31 Alesi came in to take fuel and tyres in a nine-second stop. Two laps later Schumacher followed him, and so slick were his entry and exit that although the stop itself was only a fifth of a second faster he came out of the pit lane with a lead of four seconds over the Benetton.

After that he drew away, increasing his lead by an average of more than half a second a lap. Twice he improved the

lap record, leaving it a fraction above 130mph, and his only alarm was caused when he momentarily lost concentration with 13 laps to go and brushed against the first pile of tyres at the very chicane where Hill had come to grief.

Alesi, unable to respond as he headed for his fourth second place of the season, was no doubt thinking wistfully of his own barren years with Ferrari, and in particular of his awful experience at Monza in 1994 when what looked like a certain victory was removed by a gearbox failure during a pit stop.

He might also have been nursing vain hopes that Schumacher's car, which barely lasted the course while winning at Spa last month, would break down, as had the second Ferrari of Eddie Irvine, which retired from third place just before half-distance.

Hakkinen, looking fast all weekend, raised McLaren's spirits with a fine recovery from his early mishap. Behind him in fourth and fifth places came the Jordan-Peugots of Martin Brundle and Rubens Barrichello, running in close formation for the entire race, with Pedro Diniz taking sixth place in his Ligier-Honda.

Johnny Herbert had been challenging Diniz for the final championship point until the engine of his Sauber-Ford blew up on the last lap. He finished ninth, behind Villeneuve's Williams and Jos Verstappen's Arrows-Hart but ahead of the last finisher, the Tyrrell-Yamaha of Ukyo Katayama.

As for the much discussed Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the man who will join Williams next season, he lasted only five minutes longer than the driver he will replace. Hill had barely begun his walk home when Frentzen spun his Sauber into the sand and out of an undistinguished eighth place.



Local hero... Schumacher jumps for joy as he shares the Italian crowd's elation at a Ferrari victory STEVE EATHERTON

Advertisement for Eagle Star insurance featuring a car window with the text 'OR spread your insurance payments over a year. Interest free. Interested? Call 0800 333 800 for a motor or home quote.' and the Eagle Star logo.

Guardian Crossword No 20,753 Set by Fawley. Includes a crossword grid and a list of clues for Across and Down.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Tuesday Se', 'The Bon', 'G2 with E', 'Pare', 'P', 'Sac', 'vict', 'hur', 'Cl', 'K', and 'Inside'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page: 'مركزنا للتعليم'.